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Chickasaw Times

One Tribe One Mission

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Upcoming Events

Walk for Life
Sept. 10, 9:30 a.m. - noon
Ada Main Street, Ada, Okla.
(580) 421-8734

16th Annual Tribesmen's Memorial Gospel Singing
Sept. 10, Supper 5:30 p.m.
Singing 6:30 p.m.
Bobb-Myers UMC, Antlers, Okla.
(580) 257-9738

Coffee and Careers
Sept. 13, 1-4 p.m.
Carl Albert Service Center
Ada, Okla.
(580) 436-7259

Monarch Butterfly Watch Day
Sept. 17
Chickasaw Cultural Center
Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 622-7130

Mary Ruth Barnes Illustrating Art Class
Sept. 17, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery & Studios
Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 622-8040

Homeschool Day
Sept. 19
Chickasaw Cultural Center
Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 622-7130

Kullihoma Stomp Dance
Sept. 23, 8 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Kullihoma
(580) 272-4112

Mary Ruth Barnes Watercolor Secrets Art Class
Sept. 24, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
ARTesian Gallery & Studios
Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 622-8040

Scouts Weekend
Sept. 24-25
Chickasaw Cultural Center
Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 622-7130

Lowak Sholi
Oct. 13, 6 p.m.
Chickasaw Community Center
Ada, Okla.
(580) 272-5520

Fall Festival
Oct. 15
Chickasaw Cultural Center
Sulphur, Okla.
(580) 622-7130

NAJA
Native American Journalists Association

Chickasaw Times Online

Tribal sovereignty at forefront

Water settlement secures tribes' historic standing

The Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations recently announced that they have reached a water rights settlement with the State of Oklahoma and the City of Oklahoma City. The settlement has been approved by both tribal legislatures, the State of Oklahoma, and Oklahoma City, and will now be presented to Congress for final approval. When finalized, the settlement will be established and enforceable as federal law.

Gov. Bill Anoatubby speaks at the announcement of a historic water settlement agreement among the Chickasaw and Choctoaw Nations, and the State of Oklahoma and the City of Oklahoma City.

Growing from long-standing conflicts over Sardis Lake and the Kiamichi watershed, the agreement resolves broad questions of water rights ownership and regulatory authority over the waters of the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations' entire treaty territory, an area that includes all or parts of 22 counties in south-central and southeastern Oklahoma.

In 2011, the nations filed a federal lawsuit to block efforts to export water from Sardis Lake to Oklahoma City in exclusive reliance on state law and to protect the federal law rights interests the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations have with respect to the sustainability of their treaty homelands, specifically including the waters on which such sustainability depends.

"While we have been sovereign since time immemorial, sovereignty is something we should never take for granted," said Gov. Anoatubby. "As tribal leaders we have a duty to engage in this process and exercise our rights as sovereign nations to protect the interests of our people."

The settlement will resolve the lawsuit filed by the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations as well as a countersuit the State filed in state court to seek an adjudication of tribal and non-tribal water rights in the Kiamichi, the Muddy Boggy, and the Clear Boggy watersheds.

By reaching this settlement, the parties avoid decades of litigation and associated expenses and establish, instead, greater certainty regarding management and use of water resources in the nations' historic treaty area—something that benefits all communities in the region.

"This agreement is a win for all Oklahomans, because it is based on the common interests of the people we serve as leaders of our respective governments," said Gov. Anoatubby. "At the outset of this process, it is probably safe to say each of us were focused on the needs of our own constituents.

"As we worked through this process it became increasingly apparent that we would need to look at a much bigger picture. We all came to an understanding that the people we serve have common interests and we have a responsibility to manage our shared water resources in a manner that will meet the needs of all Chickasaws, Choctaws, and Oklahomans."

Terms of the settlement ensure the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations will have a role in significant management decisions relating to the water resources of the nations' historic treaty area, including participation in standardized technical evaluations of major water right allocation proposals affecting the Settlement Area. Those evaluations include specific provisions to enhance protections for current and future water needs of communities throughout the region, enhancing stewardship of water resources both for future consumptive use within the region as well as protecting lake levels and stream flows on which the vibrant tourism industry relies.

"Under this agreement, the state will continue to manage and protect water resources throughout the state," said Gov. Anoatubby. "However, as we move into the future, the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations will have a meaningful and active voice in the management of water resources in our area, which has been one of our primary goals since we first began discussing this issue with the state."

The settlement includes specific and robust protections for Sardis Lake and the Kiamichi Basin, limiting Oklahoma City's withdrawal of water based on the City's management of its other lakes, implementation of appropriate conservation measures, and the recreation, fishing and wildlife needs that are critical to the economy in the treaty area. It also preserves the hard work done by the Chickasaw Nation, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, federal agencies, and local communities and concerned citizens relating to protection and stewardship of the waters of the Arbuckle Simpson. Each of these provisions mark significant enhancements of our systems to pro-

SEE **WATER SETTLEMENT**, PAGE 2

'Engagement, collaboration and cooperation'

Certain provisions of the Settlement Agreement are designed to ensure sustainability of adequate water resources to meet the needs of Chickasaws, Choctaws and communities in the two nations far into the future. Some of those provisions are outlined below. It is important to note these provisions also benefit the State of Oklahoma and Oklahoma City.

Governor Anoatubby said the agreement was a win for the entire state.

"This agreement provides a foundation for a deeper relationship based on engagement, collaboration and cooperation," Gov. Anoatubby said. "Under the terms of this agreement, we will be able to work together in a spirit of unity and cooperation to manage our vital water resources in a manner that that will help ensure a strong economy and a thriving natural environment for our children and grandchildren."

The agreement:

- Limits the total amount of water Oklahoma City may withdraw from Sardis Lake each year
- Prevents Oklahoma City withdrawals from Sardis Lake if the water level is below set minimums based on the OK Dept. of Wildlife lake level management plan
- Sets aside a guaranteed minimum of 20,000 acre-feet per year from Sardis Lake to be used in the 10-county area surrounding the lake
- Ensures Oklahoma City withdrawals from the Kiamichi River will not reduce stream flows below minimums established in the agreement to protect recreational and environmental needs in the area
- Requires Oklahoma City to enforce its own conservation measures before withdrawing water from Sardis Lake or Kiamichi River
- Establishes a $10 million fund to enhance recreational use, fish and wildlife habitat and environmental protections at Sardis and Atoka Lake.

Annual Meeting, Festival set for Sept. 23 - Oct. 1

Activities celebrating Chickasaw heritage, culture and traditions will be conducted in communities throughout the Chickasaw Nation during the 2016 Chickasaw Nation Annual Meeting and Festival.

This year marks the 56th Annual Meeting of the Chickasaw Nation and the 28th Chickasaw Festival. Activities begin Friday, Sept. 23, and culminate Saturday, Oct.1.

A wide variety of events are conducted during the weeklong celebration, which is highlighted by Governor Bill Anoatubby's "State of the Nation" address during Chickasaw Annual Meeting, 9 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, at Fletcher Auditorium on the campus of Murray State College, Tishomingo.

The Festival Parade will march down Tishomingo's Main Street at 12:30 p.m.

Most afternoon activities will take place at the Chickasaw Nation Capitol grounds, including the Southeastern Art Show and Market, a traditional meal, health fair, cultural demonstrations and classes, horseshow tournament, and live entertainment.

A petting zoo, kid's activities and a "make and take tent" will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Capitol grounds.

Chickasaw Princess Pageant, Cultural Evening

Chickasaw Royalty for 2016-17 will be selected during the annual pageant, 6 p.m., Monday, Sept. 26, in Ada, and Chickasaw Senior Olympics will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 27, in Tishomingo.

The Chickasaw Cultural Cen-

SEE **FESTIVAL,** PAGE 2

Briggs, Alexander, T. Colbert, M. Colbert re-elected; Billy takes Pontotoc seat

LINDA BRIGGS

BETH ALEXANDER

TIM COLBERT

MARK COLBERT

LISA BILLY

Chickasaw Nation Election Secretary Rita Loder has announced results of the 2016 general election.

Incumbent legislators Linda Briggs and Beth Alexander were re-elected to Pickens District Seat 3 and Panola District Seat 1, respectively.

Mrs. Briggs, of Marietta, received 1,592 votes to defeat Michael T. Watson, of Ardmore, and Judy Foster, of Mannsville, who received 436 votes and 316 votes, respectively.

Mrs. Alexander, of Achille, received 582 votes to defeat Clint James Hardison, of Mead, who received 183 votes.

Candidate Lisa J. Billy, of Lindsay, was unchallenged for Pontotoc District Seat 5, where she will fill the seat of retiring legislator Mary Joe Green, of Ada.

Tishomingo District Seat 2 incumbent legislator Timothy K. Colbert, of Sulphur, will retain his seat as no challengers filed for the position.

Supreme Court Seat 1 incumbent Mark H. Colbert, of Ardmore, will retain his seat as no challengers filed for the position.

Elected officials will take the oath of office Monday, Oct. 3.

For more information, contact Ms. Loder at (580) 310-6475 or 888-661-0137.

Legislative results:

Pickens District

Seat 3 Linda Briggs, Marietta – Incumbent – 1,592 votes – winner

Seat 3 Michael T. Watson, Ardmore – 436 votes

Seat 3 Judy Foster, Mannsville – 316 votes

Panola District

Seat 1 Beth Alexander, Achille – Incumbent – 582 votes - winner

Seat 1 Clint James Hardison, Mead – 183 votes

Pontotoc District

Seat 5 Lisa J. Billy, Lindsay - no challenger – elected

Tishomingo District

Seat 2 Timothy K. Colbert, Sulphur – Incumbent – no challenger – re-elected

Supreme Court:

Seat 1 Mark H. Colbert, Ardmore – Incumbent – no challenger – re-elected

Jackets popular with elder vets

MADILL, Okla. – A special jacket for a Chickasaw elder veteran is a great way for the tribe to express its thanks for service to country.

The tribe remains devoted to the health and well-being of its elders by offering programs and services focused on all aspects of their lives.

The Chickasaw Nation Elder Veterans Jacket Program provides eligible Chickasaw veterans, age 60 and older, jackets of recognition for their military service to our country. Since the program's inception in 2005, a total of 955 jackets have been awarded nationwide.

Applicants must be first-time recipients of the jacket. The required form is available at any Chickasaw Nation senior center. Chickasaw elder veterans, regardless of where they live, are eligible to receive jackets.

For more information, contact Chickasaw Nation Aging at (580) 795-9790.

Community center, senior site

Ground broken on two facilities for OKC-area Chickasaws

Ground was broken August 4 to begin construction on the Oklahoma City Chickasaw Nation Community Center, left, and Senior Center. The new facilities will be at 4001 N.W. 39th Street in Oklahoma City. The 50-acre parcel was formerly home to the Sportsman's Club. The buildings will serve as gathering places for Chickasaws and community members in the area.

OKLAHOMA CITY - Governor Bill Anoatubby led an August 4 groundbreaking ceremony to begin construction on two long-awaited Chickasaw Nation facilities.

Ground was broken on a new Chickasaw Nation Community Center and a new Chickasaw Senior Center in Oklahoma City. The 50-acre property that will be home to both facilities is at 4001 NW 39th Street. The property was formerly owned by the Sportsman's Club, and includes a 26-acre lake, along with meadows and wooded areas.

The new buildings will provide a central location in Oklahoma City where Chickasaw citizens can enjoy family reunions, community council meetings, picnics and a variety of other events.

Gov. Anoatubby said a Chickasaw presence had been steadily growing in the Oklahoma City metro area for years, thanks in large part to members of the Oklahoma City Chickasaw Community Council, who bring Chickasaw citizens who live in the area together for meetings and events.

"Our elders and community members needed a place to come together and call their own," Gov. Anoatubby said. "Across the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Community Centers and Senior Centers serve as places of fellowship, festivity and activity for all our Chickasaw citizens.

"The Chickasaw Nation is pleased to bring these vital facilities – the meeting places of our people – to Oklahoma City because it is a continuation of our mission to enhance the overall quality of life of the Chickasaw people."

Betty Smith, one of about 3,500 Chickasaw citizens who live in the Oklahoma City metro area, said the new facilities would give the many Chickasaws in the area a hub to share and learn Chickasaw culture and heritage.

"This is a momentous move forward for Chickasaw citizens in the Oklahoma City area to be closer together in fellowship and build stronger ties with our tribe," she said. "Building a community center in Oklahoma City is a dream come true and I believe it will grow to become even more significant in the future than we can imagine."

An active member of the Oklahoma City Community Council for almost 20 years, Mrs. Smith said the group had met in no fewer than six locations during that time.

"To have a place to call our own is just fantastic, and it's in the heart of Oklahoma City," she said.

The two-story, Adirondack-style Chickasaw Community Center building is designed to optimize the view of the large lake on the property.

The ground floor of the 21,910 square-foot building will feature a large lobby with a fireplace and a large banquet hall, which includes a multipurpose stage.

The banquet hall will accommodate 950 guests and will be equipped with a state-of-the-art audio visual system.

The community center will include a catering kitchen for large events and a family-style kitchen for smaller gatherings. Additional spaces include restrooms, an office, storage, a meeting room and a large patio area directly off the lobby.

The second floor features restrooms, a small meeting room and a large lounge that opens to the deck and has a large expanse of glass for views of the lake. On the building's exterior, a large porte cochère will provide shelter for arriving vehicles and is sized to accommodate tour buses.

A single-story structure that mirrors the lodge architecture of the community center, the 12,000 square-foot senior center will be positioned to provide a view of the lake while dining.

The dining room has a seating capacity of about 200 and is served by a full commercial kitchen. A garden patio will offer seniors the opportunity to sit and take in the view of the lake.

Other spaces include a parlor room, craft room, exercise room and computer room that doubles as a safe room. The OKC Senior Center's exterior also features a large porte cochère.

Once complete, the property will also include recreational areas and courts.

Several members of the OKC Chickasaw Community Council served on the committee to locate property. They included Betty Smith, Ira Stormy Bryant, Sharon Moore, Betty Kemp, Barbara Freeman, Gloria Factor, Robert Greenwood, Linda Zachary, Keith Pickens and Scott Factor.

Since 2014, several Oklahoma City projects designed to improve access to services and increase Chickasaw presence in the area have been completed.

A new Oklahoma City Area Office serves metro area Chickasaws. Exhibit C in Bricktown features Chickasaw and other Southeastern tribal art and artists. The Chickasaw Plaza along the Bricktown canal features a Chickasaw Warrior statue and plaques which describe Chickasaw history and culture.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

WATER SETTLEMENT | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tect the reliability of our water sources.

"Through this settlement process, we were able to find a way to preserve and protect the water resources essential to economic growth and quality of life in south-central and southeastern Oklahoma, while still providing water needed to meet the needs of the people of Oklahoma City," said Gov. Anoatubby. "It is a credit to Governor Mary Fallin, Attorney General Scott Pruitt, Mayor Mick Cornett and their teams that we were all able to work together to find ways to resolve our differences."

Choctaw Nation Chief Gary Batton added, "What happens in regards to the protection and preservation of water is of great importance. When finalized, this agreement secures existing uses of water and provides certainty with regard to the future use of Sardis Lake for the benefit of recreation, fish and wildlife, and local water use.

"Importantly, moving forward, both the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations will have a seat at the table in the protection of southeastern Oklahoma water resources for municipal and recreational use. And, as we all know, a vibrant recreation and tourism industry creates jobs and strengthens economies inside and outside of the Settlement Area. Additionally, we are pleased that the agreement supports keeping water in the Settlement Area within the State by maintaining current state law prohibitions and adding significant protections."

The agreement also establishes the legal security of Oklahoma City's water supplies and gives the greater Oklahoma City metropolitan area access to water for its future needs. Oklahoma City's releases from Sardis Lake will be governed by a system of lake level release restrictions based on the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's lake level management plan, which is designed to protect fishing and recreational resources. Oklahoma City will also gain access to the Kiamichi River dependent upon lake level release and minimum stream flow restrictions intended to protect the environment and recreational uses.

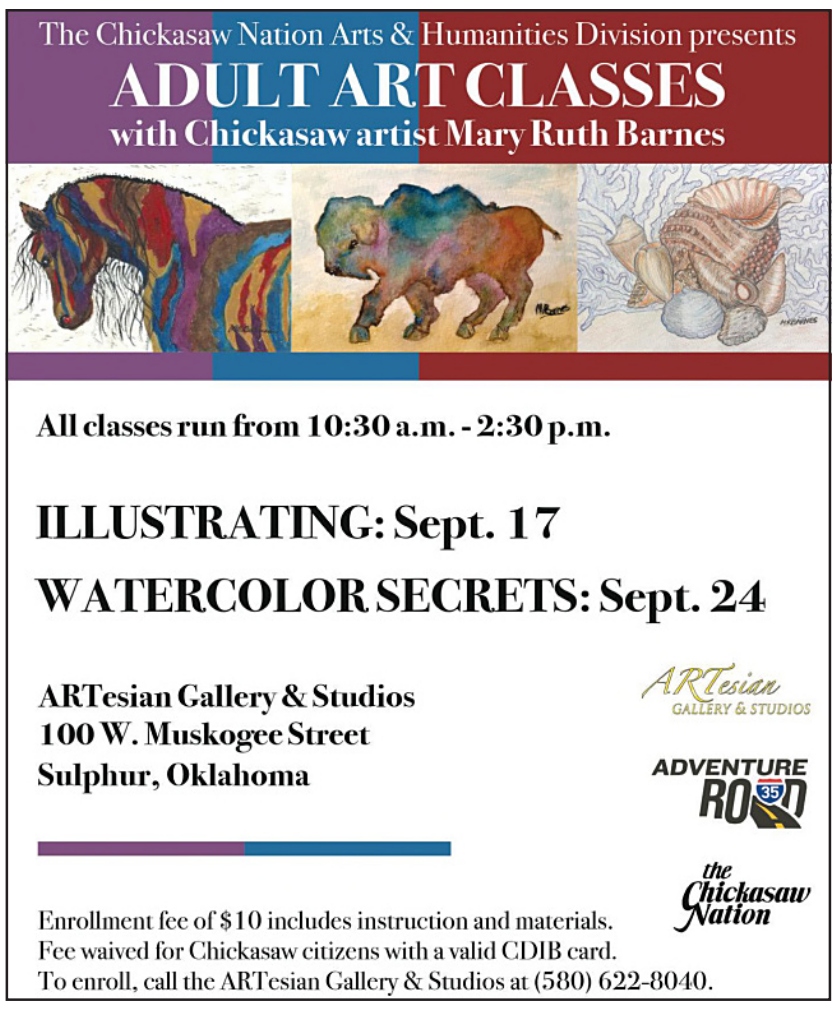
Existing water rights or rights to surface or groundwater will not be affected by the agreement, a principle embraced early on by all parties to the negotiations, and the agreement does not authorize out-of-state water use, which use will remain unlawful absent specific State legislative action on a proposal. Instead, the settlement establishes a state-tribal commission to evaluate the economic and environmental impacts of any future proposal to use water from the Settlement Area across state lines. Additionally, if the Oklahoma Legislature legalized out-of-state use per such evaluation, a proposal would have to be subjected to the standardized technical evaluation and permitting process established for other major water management decisions, and any funds that may be derived through such transaction would be deposited into a central fund for purposes of supporting badly needed public water infrastructure projects, with a significant prioritization for projects within or benefitting the nations' historic treaty area.

In response to the announcement of an agreement, The Honorable Judge Lee R. West, with the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, commented, "I have been on the bench for 51 years, but this is an especially proud moment to witness all of these diverse parties coming together to find solutions that are in the best interest of all Oklahomans and my home state. This is without doubt an historic achievement."

Given the federal trust responsibilities and the federal law nature of the nations' water rights, finalization of the settlement will require federal legislation that approves the agreement and directs the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior to sign on behalf of the United States. The parties are now working with the Oklahoma congressional delegation to secure appropriate legislation.

Additional information can be found online at www.WaterUnityOK.com.

CONTRIBUTED BY Tony Choate, Media Relations Executive Officer.



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Send mail to:
P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821
Chickasaw Times: (580) 332-2977; Fax: (580) 332-3949
e-mail: Times.Chickasaw@chickasaw.net
Chickasaw Headquarters: (580) 436-2603

Bill Anoatubby
Governor

Jefferson Keel
Lt. Governor

Tom Bolitho
Editor

Tony Choate
Media Relations Executive Officer

Becca Ayres
Office Manager

Ashlea Tatum
Layout Artist

Contributors
Media Relations: **Dana Lance, Gene Lehmann, Loné Beasley, Brandon Frye, Patrick Cravatt, Mallory Jones**
Public Affairs: **KC Cole, Tom Bailey, Deborah Large, Carmen Carter, Kristen Gill, Jennifer Jones, Matthew Stephens**

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All editorials and letters will become the property of the Chickasaw Times. Editorials must be signed by the author and include the author's address.
Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month prior to publication. Submissions can be mailed, faxed, hand-delivered or e-mailed.

We want to see you at Annual Meeting & Festival!

GOV. BILL ANOATUBBY

Governor, the Chickasaw Nation

Preparations are well underway as we look forward to 2016's Chickasaw Annual Meeting and Festival!

The 56th Annual Meeting of the Chickasaw Nation and 28th Annual Chickasaw Festival will kick off Friday, Sept. 23 and the celebration will continue through Saturday, Oct. 1. We will once again gather for our traditional events, and some new wrinkles have been added. Our celebration is centered in our historic capital city of Tishomingo, and events will also be conducted in Ada, Sulphur, Emet and Kullihoma.

All Chickasaws know about Annual Meeting and Festival, and thousands make it a regular stop each and every year. This year, I am extending a special invitation to all Chickasaws and their families who have never attended this unique and fulfilling gathering. We want you to join us!

In our modern society, most of us are tremendously busy with work, school, children, activities and a host of other responsibilities. It's easy to put off a visit to Annual Meeting and Festival, particularly if you live a distance from the Chickasaw Nation. My promise to you is you will experience something very special. Virtually everyone who attends learns something new about his or her family, makes a special connection, or discovers a key his or her Chickasaw history.

Please come and be with us! I promise the visit is more than worthwhile, and I look forward to meeting you personally!

At Annual Meeting and Festival, we celebrate the rich history of the Chickasaw Nation through gatherings and events, large and small. We actively engage our Chickasaw heritage, traditions and culture with a spirit of family togetherness.

This year kicks off with the Chickasaw History Challenge Bowl at the Chickasaw Cultural Center at 10 a.m., Friday, Sept. 23. Come and enjoy, and you will be surprised at some of the new things you learn! A Stomp Dance and stickball game begin at 7 p.m. Friday at Kullihoma.

Saturday, Sept. 24 features the 5k Fun Run/1m Walk, the co-ed slow-pitch softball tournament and Junior Olympics all at Tishomingo. The Pontotoc Pursuit bicycle ride begins at 9 a.m. at Ada's Wintersmith Park, and the popular Corn Stalk Shoot begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at Kullihoma. There are tours of the Chickasaw Capitol building, Chickasaw Bank Museum and Chickasaw Council House Museum, all in Tishomingo throughout the day.

Also Saturday, the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur offers frybread making classes, plus stickball games for both kids and adults. Movies are shown at both the Cultural Center and the Chickasaw Capitol Saturday night.

On Sunday, Sept. 25 you can catch Living History vignettes and a Native Dance Exhibit and Regalia Fashion Show at the Chickasaw Cultural Center. It all begins at 1 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 30 is our traditional Chickasaw Princess Pageant, which begins at 6 p.m. at Ada High School Cougar Activity Center. Three young Chickasaw ladies will be selected to serve as our 2016-2017 Chickasaw Royalty.

Throughout the week, local students will enjoy historic tours in Tishomingo. There will also be storytelling, Living History vignettes, children's activities and cultural demonstrations. The historic Chickasaw White House in Emet will be open for tours.

Thursday, Sept. 29 features the traditional Cultural Evening at 4 p.m., followed by the Arts & Culture Awards at 6:30 p.m. Both events are at the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur.

Make plans this year to attend the Southeastern Art Show and Market on the south capitol grounds in Tishomingo on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. The work of Chickasaw and other Southeastern artists are featured, and this is probably the best show of its kind in the country.

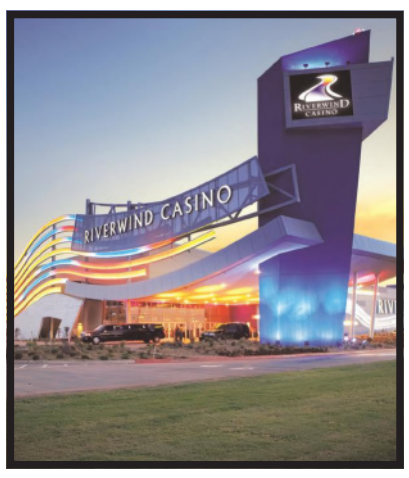
And the Johnston County Riding Club Rodeo runs both Friday and Saturday nights beginning at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 1 is the culmination of our celebration with the State of the Nation address at 9 a.m. at Murray State College, followed by the annual Festival parade down Tishomingo's Main Street. The traditional Chickasaw meal will be served at 11:30 a.m., on Fisher Street just east of the capitol building.

It's time you made your plans to attend the Annual Meeting and Chickasaw Festival!

This year, make that very special trip home. I look forward to seeing you!

Cultural Center named top state tourism destination; Riverwind honored



SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – The Association for Women in Communications (AWC) has presented its annual Clarian award to the Chickasaw Cultural Center for its outstanding website presence to promote the largest center of its kind in the U.S.

The Cultural Center, in Sulphur, Okla., was also named the Best State Tourism Destination by The Oklahoman newspaper's "Readers Choice Award."

The Oklahoman is Oklahoma's largest daily newspaper.

Oklahoman readers also selected Riverwind Casino, a Chickasaw Nation facility, "Best In-State Casino." Riverwind is just off Interstate 35 at state Highway 9 near Norman, Okla.

In describing the Chickasaw Cultural Center, the Oklahoman said it "offers a world of opportunity to learn and connect with Chickasaw history. Combining natural architectural elements and breathtaking scenery, the 109-acre campus provides no shortage of activities and adventures for visitors of all ages. Watch the story of the Chickasaw people unfold through powerful performances, films, demonstrations, collections and exhibits at one of the largest and most extensive tribal cultural centers in the United States."

The newspaper described Riverwind Casino as "one of the largest casinos in Oklahoma, featuring 219,000 square feet of electronic games, table games, poker and more. This large casino floor boasts over 2,800 electronic games, 20 table games, a poker room and off-track betting for gamblers looking for a variety of gaming options.

"Riverwind is also home to the Showplace Theatre and River Lounge, offering visitors ample opportunity to take advantage of the regular shows and concerts put on by nationally-known artists and local bands.

Riverwind Casino and Hotel is owned and operated by the Chickasaw Nation.

"The net income from Riverwind Casino and all other Chickasaw Nation businesses helps provide essential services such as health care, education, transportation and wellness to the people of the Chickasaw Nation."

To learn more about Riverwind Casino, visit www.Riverwind.com. To learn more about the Chickasaw Cultural Center, visit www.chickasawculturalcenter.com. To learn more about the Chickasaw Nation, its citizens and its history, visit www.chickasaw.net.

FESTIVAL | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ter, Sulphur, will host Cultural Evening and Arts and Culture Awards Thursday, Sept. 29. Activities begin at 4 p.m.

Pontotoc Pursuit

A new addition to festival week activities is the Pontotoc Pursuit, an annual bicycle ride, which will begin 8 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 24, in Ada.

Numerous other events will be Sept. 24 including a golf tournament, a 5K Fun Run and Walk, softball tournament, Junior Olympics, museum tours and a movie night, all in Tishomingo; as well as Cornstalk shoots at Kullihoma and activities at the Chickasaw Cultural Center, Sulphur.

A Chickasaw History Challenge Bowl at the Cultural Center and a social Stickball game and Stomp Dance at Kullihoma open the weeklong homecoming Friday, Sept. 23.

A live video stream of the Chickasaw Annual Meeting will be available at Chickasaw.net/AnnualMeeting.

A live audio stream will also be available on KCNP 89.5 FM in Ada, 89.3 FM, Dickson and www.KCNP.org.

A complete listing of events, locations and schedules is available online at www.Chickasaw.net/AnnualMeeting or follow Chickasaw Nation social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for updated information.

For more information call (580) 371-2040 or 1 (800) 593-3356.

CONTRIBUTED BY Dana Lance, Media Relations.

the Chickasaw Nation
ANNUAL MEETING & FESTIVAL

Golf Tournament

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 - IN - TISHOMINGO, OKLAHOMA
RSVP TO HILLERY.PERRY@CHICKASAW.NET • (580) 272-5722

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

7:30-8:30 A.M. - CHECK IN
8:45 A.M. - WELCOME
9 A.M. (SHARP) - SHOTGUN START

PRIZES:

1ST PLACE $1,000
2ND PLACE $750
3RD PLACE $500
LONGEST DRIVE $100
CLOSEST TO PIN $100

* REGISTRATION FEES ARE $60 PER PARTICIPANT *

Registration includes: green fees, cart, meal and complimentary gift * Dinner to follow tournament

Pay registration fees the morning of the tournament * Pairings by Tournament Committee

DRAWINGS FOR DOOR PRIZES WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER PLAY. (drivers, putters, free rounds of golf)

* RULES GOVERNING PLAY *

Five Person Scramble
Complete rules provided at start
18 years & older only (NO HIGH SCHOOL)

A Gathering of OUR PEOPLE

TISHOMINGO GOLF COURSE • 3600 W. GOLF COURSE RD. • TISHOMINGO, OK 73460 • (580) 371-2604

Name: _____ Tribal affiliation: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
Handicap (ACTUAL HANDICAP): _____ Shirt Size: S M L XL 2XL 3xl 4XL 5XL

TOURNAMENT CONTACT: JERRY JONES, THE CHICKASAW NATION DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY
(580) 310-6428, EXT. 61641 • JERRY.JONES@CHICKASAW.NET

SEPTEMBER 10TH & 11TH

Grandparents CELEBRATION

Join us

FOR STOMP DANCING, TRADITIONAL GAMES AND ACTIVITIES, CULTURAL DEMONSTRATIONS AND MUCH MORE!

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Over 500 students

Youth dedicate summer to work experience with Chickasaw Nation

The Toksali SMART program offers Native American students in Ada, Ardmore, Duncan, Pauls Velley, Purcell, Sulphur and Tishomingo, Oklahoma real-world lessons on the value of planning for the future.

Indian students spent their summer working for the Chickasaw Nation through the Toksali (Work) SMART (Successful Mindset with Positive Attitude and Readiness for Tomorrow) program. The program was previously known as Summer Youth. Students ranged in age from 14 to 21.

Students made the most of their summer by learning new skills in a real workforce environment and exploring a variety of career fields related to tribal operations and businesses within the Chickasaw Nation. A total of 520 students were placed at a wide range of job sites and received employment skills and mentoring.

Recent Ada High School graduate and Chickasaw citizen Tyler Rogers spent his summer working in Chickasaw Nation Public Affairs writing announcements and doing research for news articles. Mr. Rogers, who is enrolled at East Central (OK) University for the fall semester, said he had participated in the program for the past three summers.

Toksali SMART student Michaela Grant helps build picnic tables during the Tishomingo community service project over the summer.

"My favorite part of the program was getting job experience and learning how to create a resume," Mr. Rogers said. "What I learned will be helpful for future jobs."

When not working in an office, clinic, classroom or other facility, students attended workshops. Chickasaw Nation workers mentored students in their specialties and offered ideas on future careers. Workshops focused on college preparation, financial literacy, interviewing skills, professional dress, customer service, team building, time management work ethic and more. Each day of workshops also included talks from representatives from various Chickasaw Nation services and programs.

Chickasaw culture was an important component of the program. Students attended courses on the Chickasaw language, sovereignty, Chickasaw Nation core values and art.

Finally, students participated in community service projects they planned and completed in teams. Community service projects are a Toksali SMART staple teaching youth the value of giving back to their communities while enjoying the satisfaction hard work brings. Students in Ada completed a beautification project at the Healthy Lifestyles facility. Their project included building flower beds, planting flowers and shrubs, raking leaves, painting railings and hauling brush and limbs.

In Ardmore, Duncan, Purcell and Pauls Valley, students created butterfly gardens, laid a walkway and built picnic tables and benches. The beautification projects were completed at the Pauls Valley Senior Site, Purcell Senior Site and Mid-America Area Vo-Tech.

Governor Bill Anoatubby and Sulphur area office director Linda Williams honor "Go Getters" Anthony Mershon, left, and Alvin John at the Toksali SMART end of program luncheon July 26 at the Agri-Plex in Ada.

Students in Sulphur worked with the horticultural department at the Chickasaw Cultural Center on upkeep of the indigenous plants and gardens on the Cultural Center grounds. They also prepared hundreds of small bags of corn, beans and squash seeds along with the three sisters planting instructions, to be provided to guests.

In Tishomingo, students pulled weeds downtown and on the campus of Murry State College and built park benches and tables.

The value of these experiences speak for themselves but students also received a paycheck for their hard work.

A group of 42 students were chosen to participate in a three-day crash course in business. Participants were challenged to work in teams and create business plans, design logos and implement marketing plans for a market open to the public. Small-business owners from the community mentored students during the course.

After three days of learning about the inner workings of business, marketing and teamwork, students launched a trade market that took place July 14 at the Chickasaw Nation Community Center. Seven teams pitched their products to market shoppers.

On July 15, the results were announced and prizes awarded to top sellers. Each team took the podium and gave a presentation, putting public speaking skills to work. MVPs were chosen by team vote and received a special prize. The winning team sold 475 packages of candy, earning the highest profits. T.J. Clark, a Chickasaw from Stratford, Okla., was voted MVP of the winning team, Luxury Sweets.

"I think our team was successful because we didn't have just one leader," T.J. said. "We were all equal and able to bring forth ideas without criticism."

He hopes to return to the program next summer.

"This week was a great opportunity to learn about running your own business, creating marketing strategies and developing habits that you need to be successful," Chickasaw Nation Education executive officer Danny Wells said. "I saw some growth and that's what we expect to see when we have an activity like this."

A luncheon and award ceremony commemorated the completion of the summer program for these fastidious students. Special recognition was given to students who stood out with the best attitudes, best behavior, exhibited initiative, stepped up during the community service projects and provided the best customer service. These students were name "Go Getters."

The winners of the Go Getter awards from each area offices were: Jalen Underwood and Alisa White in Ada, Hayden Blakemore and Lujan Clayton in Ardmore, Tayvlon Elugardo in Duncan, Cole Martin and Jason Gallup in Pauls Valley, Aryele Dudgeon and Brea Schultz in Purcell, Alvin John and Anthony Mershon in Sulphur and Ashlee Walker, Cameron Lewis and Bobby Tyson in Tishomingo.

Students representing different area offices were asked to present speeches to their peers at the award ceremony. Nathaniel Rogers from the Ada area office spoke on the competitive edge given to program participants.

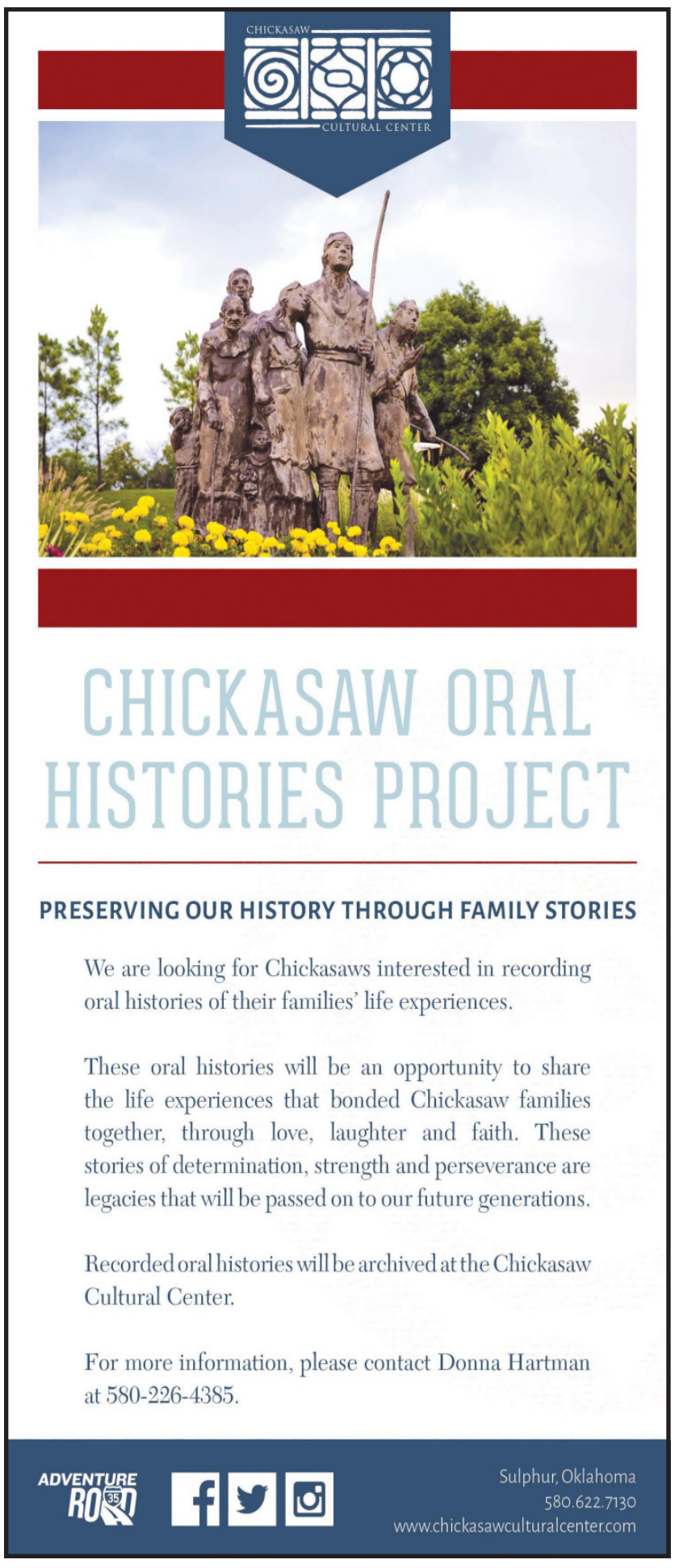
"This experience gives you a number of work skills, like communication, critical thinking, commercial thinking and the ability to work in a team, all things that can really only be learned in an actual work environment," Mr. Rogers said.

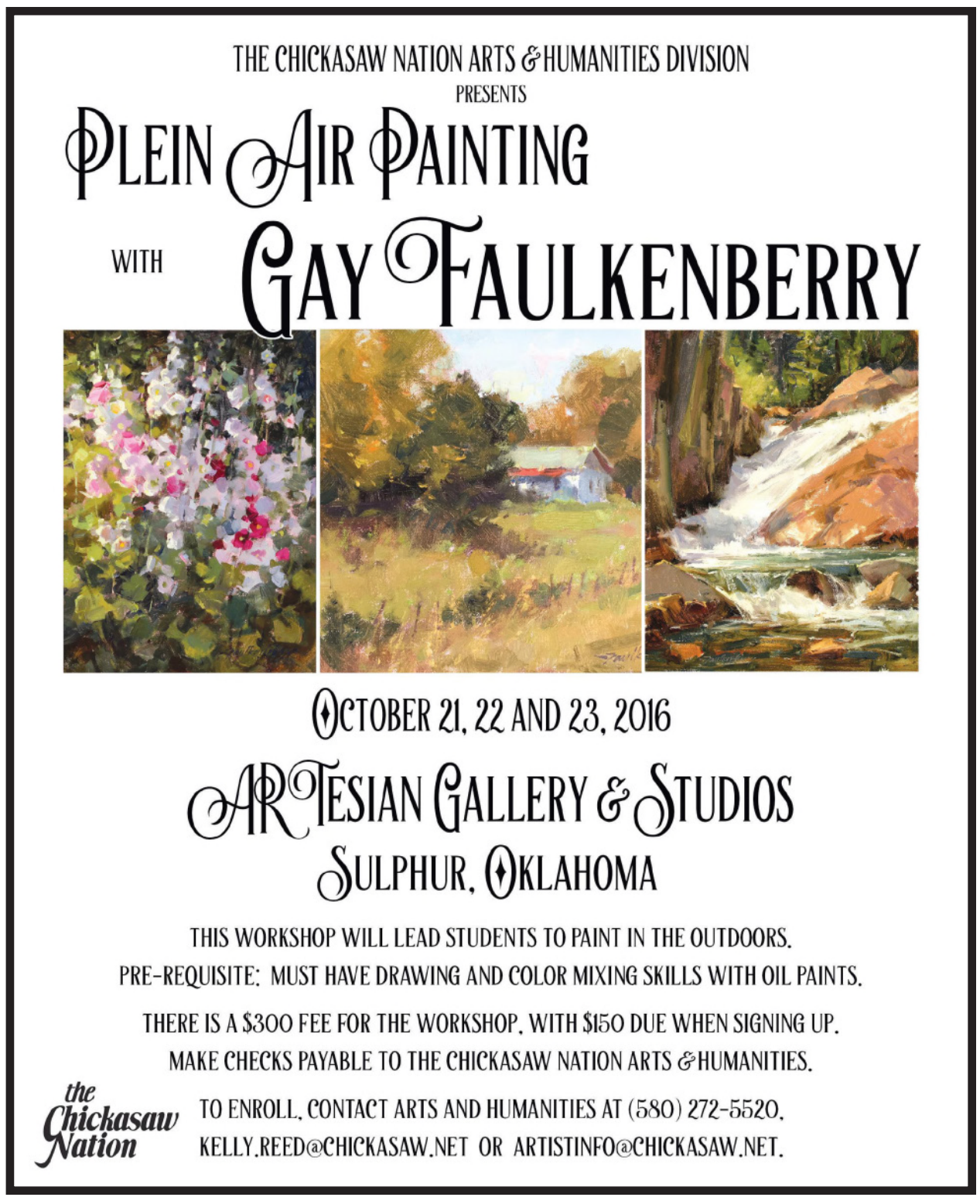
Alvin John spent his summer working at the Chickasaw Cultural Center and developed a stronger sense of pride for his heritage and his recognized his responsibility in representing the Chickasaw Nation.

"I stand for something through this program and I am proud to say that I am a part of it," he said. "I am proud that I have been given a chance to represent what Chickasaws are and I thank God every day for that."

Ethan Palmer works on landscaping at Healthy Lifestyles in Ada as part of his summer community service project during the Toksali SMART program.

CONTRIBUTED BY Jennifer Jones, Public Affairs.





'Carry the Fire'

Lowak Sho'li Native Humanities Forum to feature Chickasaws in film

Blake Pickens, right, and producing partner Stephen Love, Jr.

Ezekiel Aaron Walker, right, and actor Morgan Freeman

ADAM WEST

MICAH HART

ADA, Okla. - Lowak Sho'li "Carry the Fire" Native Humanities Forum is scheduled for 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 13 at the Chickasaw Community Center, 700 N Mississippi Ave., in Ada.

The forum, sponsored by Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities, highlights Native Americans in film. The event is a time for public dialogue among Native and non-Native people regarding how Native humanities can impact the development and welfare of local communities, regions and the state of Oklahoma. Presented in a question-and-answer format, the forum encourages audience participation during discussions by scholars.

The panel of professionals includes:

Blake Pickens

"Unconquered and Unconquerable" is the Chickasaw Nation motto of resiliency, and it is Blake Pickens' mantra. Mr. Pickens is a Chickasaw citizen from the Flats neighborhood on the south side of Oklahoma City. Despite the community's rampant drug use and gang wars, he was driven to storytelling and eventually overcame the disadvantages he faced. With a degree from the University of Oklahoma, he began his career in comedy, writing online content for *National Lampoon*.

He eventually graduated from the prestigious Peter Stark Producing Program at the University of Southern California, where he and producing partner Stephen Love formed BS Pictures. Mr. Pickens was recently awarded Sundance's Native American Time Warner Producing Fellowship for *The Land* and the Sundance Feature Film Creative Producing Fellowship for *Bexar County.* IFC Films will release, *The Land in July.*

Mr. Pickens is currently in preproduction on his next feature, *Bexar County,* set to shoot in September. Another feature, *The Last Cult*, is scheduled for production shortly thereafter. He is developing projects across platforms, film, television, digital and new media. His goal is to empower Native and minority storytellers, while creating content that showcases voices that may otherwise be unheard.

Ezekiel Aaron Walker

Ezekiel Aaron Walker is a Chickasaw citizen from Mill Creek, Oklahoma. He is the grandson of Pauline Walker, son of Toni and Carolyn Walker and a television producer and entrepreneur living in Santa Monica, California.

His most recent projects include associate producing *Through the Wormhole* with Morgan Freeman, an Emmy-nominated science documentary series for Discovery Channel, and *The Story of God* with Morgan Freeman, a six-part documentary exploration of how religion has shaped the history of the world for *National Geographic.*

Past projects include story producing *News Team*, a behind-the-scenes look at peace and war journalism for *Russia Today,* and associate producing for Top Gear on History Channel, and *The Biggest Loser* for NBC

Micah Hart

Micah Hart is a freelance filmmaker and Chickasaw citizen from Norman, Oklahoma. His production portfolio includes documentaries, film shorts, full-length motion pictures and web content.

Working in a freelance capacity, Mr. Hart is proficient in lighting, grip and camera operation. He has directed and shot content for the Chickasaw Nation, Riverwind Casino and the National Park Service.

He has also served as electric/grip on various projects for faith-based films produced by The Skit Guys and for the Starz network series *American Gods.* He served as a production assistant for the Discovery Channel's hit reality show *Street Outlaws* and the Chickasaw Nation's newest film *Te Ata.*

He is currently attending Oklahoma City Community College, where he majors in film and video production.

Adam Minor West

Adam Minor West is a Choctaw from Francis, Oklahoma. He earned a bachelor's degree in theatre from Oklahoma State University and a Master of Fine Arts degree in theatrical design from Ohio State University.

Mr. West worked as a costume designer and wardrobe master for theatre companies throughout western New York, including a stint as dance department costume designer for State University of New YorkBrockport. He was the professor of costume design at the State University of New York-Geneseo from 2004 to 2007, in addition to continuing his career as a professional costume designer in Rochester, N.Y.

In 2007, he moved to Los Angeles, and began working as a costumer for film and television.

Mr. West works primarily as a set costumer, dressing and maintaining actors on the set, but also continues to work at all levels of costuming.

He has been costumer for Malcolm McDowell, Mike Tyson, Mark-Paul Gosselaar, Susan Lucci, David Hasselhoff, Ken Jeong, Dylan O'Brien and more. His credits include *All My Children, Days of Our Lives, Bold & the Beautiful, Franklin & Bash, Zeke & Luther, Austin & Ally, Agents of SHIELD* and others. His design credits include the daytime Emmyaward winning web series *Venice: The Series* and the upcoming feature film *A Million Happy Nows.*

For the last three years, Mr. West has been key set costumer on MTV's Teen Wolf.

For more information on the Lowak Sho'li forum, contact Arts and Humanities at (580) 272-5520.

CONTRIBUTED BY Kristen Gill, Public Affairs.

Chickasaw student scores rare double with perfect SAT, ACT

A Chickasaw student is blazing a path to success after achieving perfect scores on both the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Testing Test (ACT).

The SAT and ACT are the two established college-entry tests taken principally by high school juniors and seniors. Millions of students take the tests annually.

According to collegeboard.org, of the nearly 1.7 million students who took the SAT in 2015, 504 got perfect scores. According to act.org, approximately 1.9 million students nationwide took the ACT in 2015 with 1,598 earning perfect scores.

Chloe Ayers, 16, is a senior at Colleyville Heritage High School near Dallas. Now that she has made perfect scores on both standardized tests, Chloe will have a wide range of options when it comes to choosing a college.

"I'd like to go to Massachusetts Institute of Technology or Harvard," she said. "I always wanted to go there. I visited MIT in March and I liked the campus. It's very unique. I'm very interested in science and math, and most likely will study medicine. I'd like to be a neurobiologist."

Chloe excels at biology, chemistry and calculus and competes in the annual Science Olympiad games on her school's team. The competition consists of science tests and construction exercises.

Chloe is ranked number one in her senior class of 551 students. She is a member of the National Honor Society and National Art Honor Society.

She is also involved in community activities. Chloe ended her junior year with more than 200 community service hours and is recognized as a community scholar ambassador through her school's Community Scholar Ambassador program.

Additionally, Chloe is making waves in another extracurricular sport-jump rope. She currently serves on the U.S. Jump Rope Federation Jumper Advisory Board as one of 10 nationally-elected community spokespersons for the association.

Chloe is a national record holder and grand national jump champion. She has won positions on Team USA three times (2012, 2014 and 2016), and has been chosen to represent the U.S. internationally in Hong Kong and Sweden."

Chloe's national record in speed jumping is 798 jumps in only two minutes. She is ranked one of the top 50 jumpers in the world.

Governor Bill Anoatubby congratulated Chloe on her accomplishments.

"We applaud Chloe for her exceptional performance on these challenging exams, number one ranking in her high school class and national record in speed jumping," Gov. Anoatubby said. "While these amazing accomplishments show Chloe has the potential for a bright future, her commitment to community service and willingness to represent the interests of her fellow athletes indicate she understands that true success is measured by the positive impact you have on those around you."

Chloe is the daughter of Jonathan and Deanne Ayers. Her Chickasaw heritage comes from her father's side of the family.

"I am proud of my heritage and hope that my conduct is a positive reflection on the Chickasaws," she said.

CHLOE AYERS

With so many accomplishments under her belt already, Chloe Ayers seems bound to be successful in her future endeavors.

'Coffee & Careers' getting results for Chickasaw job seekers

ADA, Okla. - The Chickasaw Nation is hiring.

"Coffee and Careers" citizen hiring events take place every two months. Chickasaws may attend for on-the-spot interviews and, sometimes, job offers the same day.

Jay Laxton is a Chickasaw who recently moved from Texas to Sulphur, Okla. He attended the July 19 "Coffee & Careers" direct citizen hiring event at the Carl Albert Service Center in Ada.

Mr. Laxton spent 13 years working security at the Texas state capitol in Austin. He moved to Sulphur to help his parents. Mr. Laxton was called into two interviews before 2 p.m. the day of the event.

"I didn't know what to expect," he said. "I've never been to anything like this before. I like it. Hopefully, everything will go well."

Justin Malton, another first time "Coffee & Careers" attendee, hoped for one of the available security positions. His job experience was in construction and he was seeking a more stable position with benefits. He was called back for an interview following the event.

Citizens who attended the July 19 event were greeted by helpful Chickasaw Nation Human Resources workers who offered assistance and registration. Job seekers who had yet to fill out an online profile on www.chickasaw.net/careers used the on-site computer lab to complete an online application.

A list of 40 opportunities circulated as job seekers worked on interest profiles and attended on-the-spot interviews. Jobs in the medical field, transportation, security, nutrition, pharmacy, services and more were offered to Chickasaw job seekers.

Human Resources recruitment and outreach coordinator Haleigh Ralls said 30 job offers were made at the July 19 event.

The next "Coffee & Careers" is set for Tuesday, Sept. 13 at the Carl Albert Service Center. Job seeking citizens should bring their driver's licenses, CDIB cards and Social Security cards to the event. Resumes are accepted, however an online profile at www.chickasaw.net/careers is also required.

"There are always jobs open in the medical field," Ms. Ralls said. "We have a big need for RNs, and LPNs."

Citizens who would like assistance with job placement can contract chickasawrecruiters@chickasaw.net or call (580) 436-7259 to speak with a recruiter.

Vocational Rehabilitation at citizen hiring events

The Chickasaw Nation Vocational Rehabilitation program attends the citizen hiring events to offer services to people who have physical or mental barriers to employment. The program offers a monthly Job Club that offers strategies for successful career searching, resume writing, interviewing skills and more. The Vocational Rehabilitation program is available to members of any Native American tribe within the Chickasaw Nation boundaries with a documented physical or mental disability which results in a substantial impediment to employment. To learn more about this program or apply, contact vocreab@chickasaw.net or (580) 421-7711.

Serving with humility, having faith in the Almighty helps guide our tribe

NANCY ELLIOTT
Secretary
Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Chokma, chinchokma, Hello, how are you?

We are living in a very troubled time around our world. We, as Chickasaw people, have dual citizenship. We are citizens of our sovereign Chickasaw Nation, but we are also citizens of the United States. I've often heard people say, "If the United States government would run as efficiently as our Chickasaw Nation government, then our country would be in much better shape."

We can be very proud of our Chickasaw Nation government. We have honest leaders who work together to enhance the lives of the Chickasaw people. We also acknowledge from "Whom we receive our blessings," Chihowa, God, the Creator, our Heavenly Father! We are not so proud of our successes that we think we have achieved what we have by ourselves. Oh, no!

I am so thankful our leaders and our people acknowledge God as the giver of all good things and thank Him at every opportunity and gathering. In fact, the Day of Prayer was established a few years ago so that we, as Chickasaw people, could formally come together and pray for our own Nation, but also for America, and acknowledge publicly that we believe that Chihowa, God, our Heavenly Father has blessed our Nation. For this, we give thanks to Him!

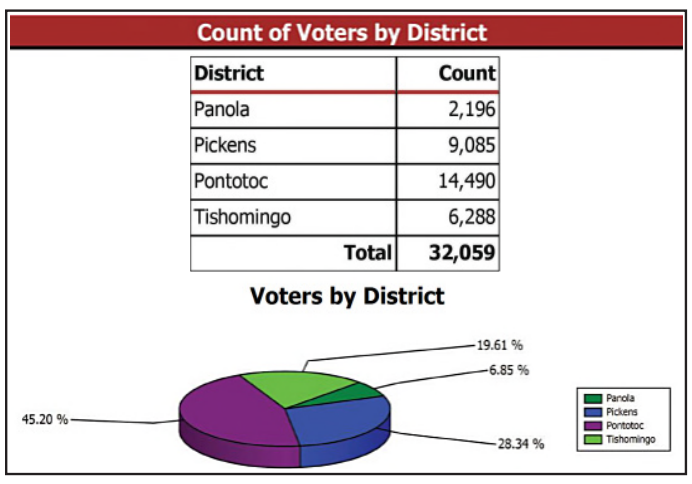
As citizens, we must do our part. We must fall on our faces, repent of our sins, and ask forgiveness for ourselves and our country. We must pray for our leaders, and we must vote for those who best represent the biblical principles in which we believe. Wouldn't it be great if the Indian Nations led the rest of the country in an Awakening and turned our country back to God?

The Chickasaw Nation Day of Prayer is in August, usually at the Cultural Center in Sulphur. If you were not able to be there for this year's Day of Prayer, mark it on your calendar for next year. Also, this year we will host the Inter-Tribal Day of Prayer on November 5th, 2016, which will be held at the Ardmore Community Center. I hope you will make plans to attend.

We often say we are blessed as a Nation.d We are blessed to have great leaders; educated, conscientious employees; artists who share their talents; elders who share their wisdom; and young people who take advantage of opportunities and strive to be the best they can be. Everyone matters. We're all part of a whole. We can all contribute to making our world better!

Please let me know if I can help you in any way!

Chipisala' cho anowa, Until I see you again,
Nancy
Pontotoc District Seat 2
Nancy.elliott@Chickasaw.net
580-399-4374



Make your plans today to attend the Chickasaw Annual Meeting & Festival

TIM COLBERT

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Chukma!

Greetings from the Tishomingo District!

It's September and a time when Chickasaws who live across the globe prepare for our upcoming Chickasaw Nation Annual Meeting and Chickasaw Festival.

This weeklong celebration allows all Chickasaws to reunite and celebrate our unique culture and heritage. The festival is also a great platform to share our tradition of hospitality with our friends and neighbors who attend the events; which are held in variety of locations across the Chickasaw Nation.

Festivities kick off this year Sept. 23 and culminate on the first Saturday in October, Oct. 1 with Annual Meeting.

Chickasaw Annual Meeting serves many purposes: we are informed and updated of our tribe's progress at State of the Nation and we have an opportunity to celebrate our culture, traditions and heritage with each other and our friends and community members.

The Annual Meeting began at Byng School, and is now conducted in our historic capitol, Tishomingo, on the campus of Murray State College.

The 2016 Chickasaw Annual Meeting begins at 9 a.m., Oct. 1.

This year I will also have the honor to take the Oath of Office to begin a new term of service to you, the Chickasaw citizen.

When first elected to the Chickasaw legislature in 1983, the personal goals I had established for the advancement of the Chickasaw people have been exceeded multiple times by the realities of what we have accomplished.

Beginning with our first business, the Chickasaw Motor Inn, and humble dreams of what the tribe could be, it is evident we have had amazing progress!

Today, the Chickasaw Nation is one of the largest employers in Oklahoma and we own and operate the World's largest casino – WinStar World Casino. These are just two points among hundreds which demonstrate our progress.

We have many, many reasons to be Chickasaw Proud!

We should take pride each day in the progress we have made together and especially during our Chickasaw Nation during Annual Meeting and Chickasaw Festival.

Hope to see you there!

For more information about Chickasaw Nation Annual Meeting and Festival, you can call (580) 371-2040 or 1 (800) 593-3356 or visit www.chickasaw.net.

Thank you once again for allowing me to serve as your representative on the Chickasaw legislature.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Chokma'shki,

Tim Colbert
Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net
580-421-7242

Summer has proved to be a great time to discover Chickasaw people!

LINDA BRIGGS

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

It has been a truly rewarding summer!

Yes, it was hot as blazes at times, and most places could have used quite a bit more rain. However, as I traveled throughout the Chickasaw Nation and beyond, I was consistently impressed at all the things Chickasaws are doing in this world.

I met tradesmen and artisans, teachers and accountants, actors and laborers…and so many more! The diversity of endeavor I witnessed throughout the world of Chickasaw people this summer was amazing. The people of our beloved tribe are truly making a difference in the world through their work and their spirit.

If we consider where we have traveled together in just the past century, it is an incredible journey. This would have been the period just following allotment and the run-up to America's involvement in the First World War.

Think about what life was like then for Chickasaws. Our tribal lands had been divided and allotted. Most Chickasaws had limited access to education and worked in lower-skill jobs. Yes, some broke through and made it to the professional ranks. But most struggled with the changes in our lands and in the world.

Throughout the first part of the 20th Century, Chickasaws faced times of renewed challenge. During that time, another attempt at termination of the tribe was waged, and some Indian families were removed to far away urban centers in a misguided attempt as assimilation.

An awakening occurred in the second half of the century as our tribe began to take on real self-sufficiency efforts and helped lift people up.

And how about today? The present day is light years ahead of a century ago! Today, Chickasaws have tremendous education opportunities and tens of thousands now have academic degrees and work in a wide variety of disciplines. The health of our people is so greatly improved with our tribe's investment in modern health care services. Our elders now enjoy a myriad of programs and services to keep them healthy, active and a real force within our tribe.

And our self-sufficiency model has paid dividends never imagined 100 years ago. Today, our Chickasaw Nation commerce is driving the resources that build the foundation of our tribe's robust programs.

Yes, it is so fulfilling to meet so many wonderful, accomplished Chickasaw people. They are everywhere!

It has been a great summer!

Please call or write whenever I can be of help to you and your family.

Linda Briggs

2015-2016 Tribal Legislature

Following is a list of the Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislators including their address and phone numbers. If you have any questions or need any information, please contact the legislator in your area.

Pontotoc District
Seat #

1. Toby Perkins
15810 CR 1569
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 399-2606
Toby.Perkins@chickasaw.net

2. Nancy Elliott
620 Ann
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 399-4374
Nancy.Elliott@chickasaw.net

3. Katie Case
P.O. Box 145
Stonewall, OK 74871
(580) 272-8385
Katie.Case@chickasaw.net

4. Dean McManus
5980 CR 3430
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 235-2651
Dean.McManus@chickasaw.net

5. Mary Jo Green
2000 E. 14th Place
Ada, OK 74820
(580) 310-4563
Mary.Green@chickasaw.net

Pickens District
Seat #

1. David Woerz
P.O. Box 669
Ardmore, OK 73402
(580) 235-3240
David.Woerz@chickasaw.net

2. Connie Barker
509 SW 7th Ave.
Marietta, OK 73448
(580) 272-4175
Connie.Barker@chickasaw.net

3. Linda Briggs
P.O. Box 241
Marietta, OK 73448
(580) 272-7268
Linda.Briggs@chickasaw.net

4. Shana Tate Hammond
801 North Mississippi
Ada, Oklahoma, 74820
(580) 235-1438
Shana.Hammond@chickasaw.net

Tishomingo District
Seat #

1. Scott Wood
204 East Main Street
Tishomingo, OK 73460
(580) 221-1430
Scott.Wood@chickasaw.net

2. Tim Colbert
P.O. Box 773
Sulphur, OK 73086
(580) 421-7242
Tim.Colbert@chickasaw.net

3. Steven Woods
5071 Gray's Road
Davis, OK 73030
(580) 272-7270
Steve.Woods@chickasaw.net

Panola District
Seat #

1. Beth Alexander
PO Box 246
Achille, OK 74720
(580) 272-7850
beth.alexander@chickasaw.net
bethalexander22@hotmail.com

Water settlement a historic marker on the long trail of tribal sovereignty

MARY JO GREEN

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Chukma and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District. August is very hot and dry in Ada this year. Other parts of Oklahoma are getting some rain - but not Ada.

I am so blessed that my career has seen so many changes and improvements in Chickasaw life and the growth of the Nation. But I think that one of the largest is the water settlement agreement among the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, the State of Oklahoma and the City of Oklahoma City regarding the water in Sardis Lake which is located in the Chickasaw and Choctaw settlement areas. The State and Oklahoma City were completely ignoring the tribes when they began planning to drain Lake Sardis for drinking water. The Chickasaws and Choctaws filed suit under rights to water given us in treaties long ago. We prevailed in the suit and both the State and City agreed to recognize our common interests in the water. This is a monumental action in the history of our Nation and I feel is a fitting end chapter to my career as a Chickasaw Legislator. On Monday, August 15, the Legislature met in Special Session to approve the agreement.

Another monumental task this month was the ground breaking in Oklahoma City for two buildings, one a nutrition center and the other a community center for Chickasaws living in the Oklahoma City area. The buildings are located in a 40-acre park setting overlooking a lake. Typically Chickasaw, the setting is filled with natural beauty. It was the largest gathering for a ground breaking that I can remember!

Sadly, I will only be able to write you one more time before I retire. It's only six weeks until the Annual Meeting and Festival. Well let's make the most of it and I'll see you in Tishomingo!

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving you these many years. It has truly been a blessing to me and my family. As always, I would love to hear from you. My home phone will continue to be (580) 332-2394. Chi ihullo li! Until next time, I wish God's blessings on all of our people.

Thank you. Chipisala'cho!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Chickasaw Annual Meeting & Festival

BETH ALEXANDER

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

The annual Chickasaw Festival is just around the corner! It is an excellent time for all citizens to visit the area, sight see and renew those family ties! I look forward to meeting you there!

June 20, 2016, was hailed as a significant day at the Lighthouse of Colbert Church. Pastor Joe Beshirs, and his wife Ruth hosted a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of their new underground storm shelter and above ground safe room. The facilities are large enough to accommodate 75 people in each portion of the shelter and will also provide a location for handicapped citizens as well. The Lighthouse was founded in 2008 and continues to expand their outreach and community involvement. The shelter is open to the public whenever necessary. A sincere thank you to those who assisted in making this project a success. Come by for a visit and to see the new shelter located on Somers Ave. in Colbert, OK.

Pastor Joe Beshirs, and his wife Ruth hosted a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of their new underground storm shelter and above ground safe room.

Recently I had the opportunity to meet the dynamic duo of Tahwahnah James and Amarylis Hornsby! The sisters grew up in Mead, Oklahoma and today are living just a short distance from each other in Bedford, Texas. The girls shared about a pashofa spoon that had been passed down through their family for 5 or 6 generations. At some point, the spoon, along with its family history, were framed and mounted; in 2013, it was donated to the Chickasaw Culture Center during a North Texas Chickasaw Community Council meeting held at the Bedford Boys Ranch. The sisters are decendants of original enrollee, David Hamilton Willis. The sisters were such a delight, I can't wait to stop by for another visit!

Pashofa spoon

Hats off to Ashli Wieck (23) and brother, Davis Wieck (21) on their recent graduation from Texas Tech University! Congratulations mom and dad (Nathan and Bobbi Wieck) on a job well done! Read more about these siblings in the graduation section of the CN Times. The family is appreciative and thankful for all the assistance the CN provided in this endeavor.

"Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality." ~Romans 12:12-13

Beth Alexander

Discovering the right treatment is key to getting on the road to full health

KATIE CASE

Chickasaw Tribal Legislature

Hello Everyone,

The last two articles have been about our family's recent healthcare experiences, specifically my son's challenges getting correctly diagnosed and treated for a digestive disorder. Those two stories resonated with many readers who have had or are having similar situations themselves, or within their circle of family and friends.

Some readers contacted us to check on Jeff and let us know that they were praying for him. Those interactions were both incredibly heartening and humbling. We are grateful for each prayer and good wish.

Some readers reached out to let us know the articles gave them a sense of hope that something could be done for them if they went to the right place.

To that end, I have more to share that may prove helpful.

It has been a challenging 11 or 12 months for Jeff. In August of last year, he crossed a hot asphalt parking lot at Lake Eufaula, barefooted, and suffered third degree burns on the bottoms of both feet.

Jeff initially sought treatment for his burns at Baptist/Integris in Oklahoma City.

For 6 months, the doctor at Baptist treated Jeff by examining the wounds and prescribing silvidine ointment, daily cleansing and bandaging, and normal walking.

After 6 months, the burns/wounds on the balls of Jeff's feet were still the size of silver dollars and ¼" deep. They were clean and ever so slowly healing, but they were open, red, fleshy wounds in danger of getting infected and putting Jeff's limbs and life at risk.

The doc at Baptist was starting to talk about grafting skin from other parts of Jeff's body onto his feet, and Jeff was asking about newer treatments like grafts made from discarded foreskin material and stem cell treatment. A nurse from the Baptist burn team dismissed the foreskin graphs, saying they wouldn't stay attached to wounds in unmoving areas, much less the bottoms of feet.

One nurse, however, suggested that Jeff see a podiatrist for some orthotics to maybe take some pressure off the wounds. So, Jeff Googled podiatrists in Ada and found Dr. Bryan Blank. That was a stroke of good fortune.

Dr. Blank refused to give him pads, but insisted that he could help Jeff's body heal the wounds. He went to work immediately applying collagen grafts, then grafts of fibroblast cells generated from infant foreskin material that would have otherwise been discarded and finishing with stem cell graphs from post-birth placentas. Jeff's wounds were healed by the first of April.

Dr. Blank is a podiatrist, but his specialty is wound care. He gladly accepts Medicare and has a true heart for helping people. If you have a wound that won't heal or a doctor advising any level of amputation, see Dr. Blank! His office is in Ada and his phone number is (580) 559-0001.

Respectfully,
Katie

Education leads the way in tribal investment

FINANCIAL REPORT

The tribal government caption includes the tribe's general fund and BIA trust funds. The Chickasaw Businesses include all of the businesses and operations of the Division of Commerce. Not included in the financial statements are federally or state funded programs and/or grants and the financial statements of Bank 2 and Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc.

The growing needs of the businesses are taken into account when determining the transfers from the businesses to the general fund. It is vital to the long range mission of the Chickasaw Nation that the businesses continue to grow and diversify.

Revenues of tribal government, other than the transfer from businesses, include motor fuel settlement funds and investment income. Chickasaw Business revenues include gaming revenues net of prizes and other sales revenues from convenience stores, travel plazas, tobacco stores, other tribal businesses as well as rental and investment income.

Tribal expenditures are classified by function. General government includes the maintenance and operations of tribal property, *the Chickasaw Times* and Governor's and Lt. Governor's offices. Expenditures for education include education scholarships as well as the tribe's division of education. Health expenditures include eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, wellness center, community health clinics, catastrophic medical assistance and other similar programs not covered by federal programs or grants.

The businesses' expenditures are classified as to expenses associated with gaming operation of the tribe and the other businesses of the tribe.

Executive Summary of the Financial Statements of the period ending July 31, 2016

Tribal Government

Revenues and transfers from the businesses for operations and fixed assets totaled $18.6 million for the month and $169.2 million year-to-date. Expenditures were $13.7 million for the month and $118.5 million year-to-date.

Chickasaw Businesses

Revenue net of gaming prizes through July totaled $1.15 billion. Net income before the transfers to the Tribal Government was $263.9 million year-to-date. After transfers to the Tribal Government for capital projects and tribal program operations the net income was $113.5 million year-to-date. The net income includes all revenue, including amounts reserved for business growth and expansion.

Statement of Net Assets

At July 31, 2016, the tribal government funds had $383.5 million in cash and investments. Of this amount, $23.6 million is in the BIA Trust funds. This total does not include any federal program funds.

The businesses had $270.8 million in cash and investments which is reserved for accounts payable and business operations.

As of July 31, 2016, tribal operations, excluding federal program funding, had net assets of $2.31 billion.

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
For the Ten Months Ended July 31, 2016

		Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Revenues	$	18,754,900	1,152,087,929	1,170,842,829
Transfers From Businesses To Tribal Government		150,471,283	(150,471,283)	-
Total Funds Available		169,226,183	1,001,616,646	1,170,842,829
Expenditures				
General Government		5,839,400	-	5,839,400
Legislature		2,466,463	-	2,466,463
Judiciary		1,007,126	-	1,007,126
Education		20,372,230	-	20,372,230
Heritage Preservation		19,753,150	-	19,753,150
Health		17,144,125	-	17,144,125
Youth Services		4,547,455	-	4,547,455
Family Services		11,797,332	-	11,797,332
Nutrition Programs		5,966,119	-	5,966,119
Regulatory		9,577,225	-	9,577,225
Assistance Programs		20,076,490	-	20,076,490
Gaming Expense		-	657,785,923	657,785,923
Other Businesses' Expense		-	230,355,074	230,355,074
Total Expenditures		118,547,115	888,140,996	1,006,688,112
Increase In Net Assets		50,679,068	113,475,650	164,154,718
Beginning Net Assets		818,638,319	1,322,439,260	2,141,077,579
Ending Net Assets	$	869,317,386	1,435,914,910	2,305,232,296

Chickasaw Nation
Tribal Operations
Statement of Net Assets
July 31, 2016

		Tribal Government	Chickasaw Businesses	Total
Cash And Investments	$	383,501,546	270,778,420	654,279,966
Receivables		11,806,886	106,673,780	118,480,665
Inventory		87,821	6,754,688	6,842,508
Prepaid Expenses		-	23,081,804	23,081,804
Other Assets		-	1,078,139	1,078,139
Fixed Assets		477,675,962	1,179,556,108	1,657,232,069
Less Payables		(3,754,827)	(152,008,028)	(155,762,856)
Net Assets	$	869,317,386	1,435,914,910	2,305,232,296

Births

Nicholas Francisco Grijalva

Parents Miguel and Amy Grijalva and big sister Gracelyn Pamela Grijalva are pleased to announce the birth of their son and baby brother. Nicholas Francisco Grijalva was born April 29, 2016 at 4:30 pm in Ada, Oklahoma.

He weighed 6 lbs., 14.3 oz. and measured 18.5 inches at birth.

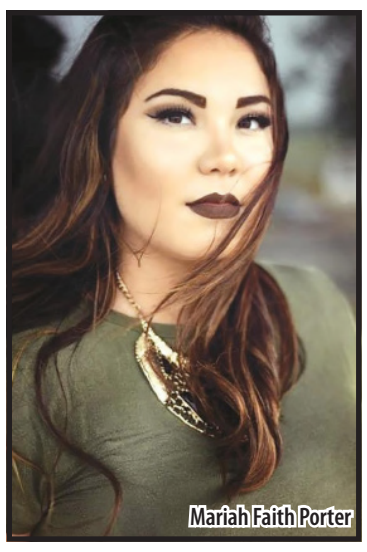
His maternal grandparents are Kenneth and Shirley Bailey, of Mcloud, Oklahoma. His paternal grandparents are Miguel and Griselda Grijalva, of Albuquerque, N.M.

Nicholas has one living great-grandmother, Ana Maria Dee, of Norman, Okla.

He is the great-grandson of the late Ethel Harrington Futischa and the great-great-grandson of the late Johnson Futischa.

He is also the great-great-great grandson of the late Wincy and the late Johnnie Futischa, both original enrollees of the Chickasaw Tribe.

Graduations


Mariah Faith Porter

Mariah Faith Porter is a 2016 graduate of Anadarko (OK) High School.

Mariah was valedictorian of her class and maintained a 4.0 grade point average. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Oklahoma Indian Honor Society and the Anadarko Superintendent's Honor Roll.

During her high school years, Mariah served as a tutor for Anadarko Middle School and High School students. She also helped started a backpack and school supplies program for students in need.

She now attends Southwestern Oklahoma State University where she will major in nursing.

Her parents are Mick and Christina Porter, of Ada, Okla., and Michelle Smith, of Anadarko. Her grandparents are John and Kathy Porter, of Ada, and Janie Newby, of Konawa, Okla.

Armstead B. B. Liebl

Chickasaw citizen Armstead B. B. Liebl graduated from U.S. Marine Corps boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., July 29. He is a Private First Class.

Upon completion of USMC School of Infantry at Camp Geiger in November, he will be assigned to his first Infantry unit.

Pfc. Armstead is a third generation Chickasaw Marine. His grandfather, Ray Liebl - whose maternal grandfather Thomas Wilson Greenwood (1870-1913) was a Chickasaw original enrollee - served in the Marines from 1954 to 1976. He saw combat in Vietnam, where he was wounded and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Pfc. Armstead's father, Vernie Liebl, also served in the Marines from 1980 to 2006. He completed four combat deployments (Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa) and was awarded a Bronze Star (Afghanistan).

Pfc. Armstead is proud of his heritage, and is honored to serve his country as a United States Marine, following a family tradition of military service.

Ashli and Davis Wieck

Ashli Wieck and Davis Wieck graduated from Texas Tech University in May 2016. They are both graduates of Sherman (TX) High School.

Ms. Wieck graduated with a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in mathematics. She will start her teaching career at Monterey High School in Lubbock, Texas. She will be the Algebra II teacher for the upcoming school year. While pursuing her degree, Ms. Wieck studied abroad in Vietnam and southeast Asia.

Mr. Wieck Davis graduated with a bachelor's degree in wind energy. He completed his degree in three years while working at Flint Boot and Hat Shop in Lubbock. He has just completed his first month of work with Wanzek Construction in Newkirk, Okla., on the construction of a wind farm.

With the help of the Chickasaw Nation and Higher Education Department, both graduates are able to realize and achieve their dreams. They are forever grateful for the financial help and support the nation has given them.

Ashli and Davis Wieck are the children of Nathan and Bobbi Wieck, of Sherman, Texas.

Travis Combest and family

Travis Combest graduated from American Public University with honors. He earned his Master's in Public Health. He intends to focus on interventions and conduct research related to exercise physiology and decreasing rates of obesity and diabetes.

Graduations

Daniel Thomas Patton

Daniel Thomas Patton is a 2016 graduate of Ventura Community College, Ventura, Calif. He earned an associates degree in business.

Mr. Patton is the son of Lloyd and Leisa Bell, of Santa Paula, Calif., grandson of Paul and Margaret Patton, of Nevada, and Beverly Harris, of Ada, Okla.

Thank you to the Chickasaw Nation for all your help and support in making this possible. He has enrolled in Kaplan University on-line course to receive his real estate license.

NORMAN, Okla. - Johnathon Reynaldo Loera graduated in May from the University of Oklahoma. He graduated with honors from the College of Arts and Sciences with bachelor's degrees in Native American Studies and political science.

He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa academic honor society.

While at OU, Mr. Loera served one year as President of Sigma Nu Alpha Gamma. He was active in the Native American community on campus, and strived to be a positive influence to other Native students. He also worked for Norris Marine while attending OU.

Mr. Loera is now attending the University of Oklahoma School of Law.

He is the son of Larry and Kimi Chambers. His grandparents are Ilene Keel Davis, and Richard and Cheryl Taliaferro. He is the great nephew of councilman Don Keel, and of Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel.

Congratulations

Kyla Davidson

NEW YORK – A Chickasaw high school student recently took part in a unique digital media program.

Kyla Davidson, a Davis (OK) High School sophomore participated in the National Youth Leadership Forum on Digital Media, Film & Journalism. The forum, from July 16-25, was conducted in partnership with the New York Film Academy. Students were challenged to become leaders in the digital media field.

The seven-day creative journey took students to New York where they met with digital media leaders and practiced skills necessary for success in the rapidly changing field. Professionals in broadcast, video, and audio, digital production, journalism, film editing and more shared their expertise.

"The program provides students with a wide array of multimedia professions – in front of and behind the camera – to help them make more informed decisions about their future careers," forum chief academic officer Andrew Potter said. "They walk away from the program better prepared for the college application process, university life and, ultimately, a creative digital media career,"

A highlight of the program challenges students to create and shoot a short film or broadcast news segment on the New York Film Academy, where students learn the arts of directing, staging, videography and post-production.

Other hands-on workshops and project work include the practice of real-world journalism skills, the production of a newspaper or magazine, and exploration of digital-age reporting tools such as blogging, podcasting and communicating through virtual media.

Sha Ingram

Sha Ingram, a member of the 2016 NAIA Oklahoma City University Stars Softball Championship Team, has earned further honors.

Ms. Ingram has been named to the Academic all-Sooner Athletic Conference softball team. To be considered for academic all-SAC honors, student athletes must maintain a minimum 3.25 GPA during 2015-2016 and be letter winners on their respective teams.

Ms. Ingram also made the OCU Champions Club by being named to the Sooner Athletic Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll, the OCU's Athletic Director's List and the Dean's Honor Roll. The SAC Commissioner's Honor Roll includes conference student athletes who compete in a league-sponsored sport and maintain a 3.0 GPA or better the previous school year. The Oklahoma City University Athletic Director's list recognizes those Stars who achieve a 3.0 GPA in a semester. The OCU Dean's Honor Roll is awarded to students who complete a minimum of 12 credit hours and maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Ms. Ingram is a proud citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, and is also of Comanche and Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo descent.

She is the daughter of Darrin and Alisa Ingram, of Blanchard, Okla., and the granddaughter of James and Phyllis Ingram, of Enville, Okla., and Randy and Mary Attocknie, of Oklahoma City, and the late Patricia Duran Attocknie.

She is the great-granddaughter of Lena (McCurtain) Ingram Farve and great-great-granddaughter of original Chickasaw enrollee James Cotton McCurtain and Mary Fykie McCurtain.

Amelia Garcia

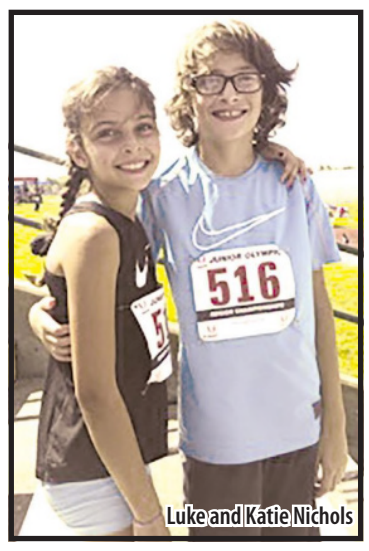
Six-year-old Chickasaw Amilia Garcia recently competed in the National American Miss Oklahoma. This is an all natural pageant, and use of make-up is discouraged.

Amilia won first in talent when she performed a tap dance, and second in causal wear modeling. She was crowned Miss Oklahoma Princess 2016, and will be competing for the National Title in Anaheim, California during the week of Thanksgiving representing the great state of Oklahoma.

Amilia is active in softball, dance, competitive cheer, and has worked alongside the nonprofit organization Post Up for ATV safety which promotes the use of helmets while riding four-wheelers.

Amilia is the daughter of Iver and Lisa Garcia. She is the granddaughter of Jose and Karen Garcia, Chickasaw citizen Jerry Sweet and Debbie Sliger. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Gladys Cravatt-Sweet (Chickasaw) and the late Lewis Sweet.

Congratulations


Luke and Katie Nichols

Chickasaw brother and sister Luke and Katie Nichols competed last month in the USATF Track & Field State meet in Okemah, Okla. The siblings run for Oklahoma Zoom of Wagoner, Okla.

Katie finished sixth in the 10U girls long jump. That finish qualified her for the USATF Regional Championships in Joplin, Mo.

Luke won the state championship in the 12U boys 80m hurdles. He also qualified for the Regional Championships.

The USATF Regional Championships consist of the top track and field youth athletes from Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas.

At the Regional Championships, Katie finished just outside the finals in the long jump. Luke won the 80m hurdles Regional Championship. Luke qualified for the USATF National Championships in Sacramento, Calif. Luke will compete against the top 80m hurdles from across the U.S. on the campus Sacramento State University.

Tewanna Anderson-Edwards

Tewanna Anderson-Edwards was a contestant in the 2016 Ms. OK Senior America Pageant on June 25 at the Westminster Presbyterian community center in Oklahoma City.

She is the mother of three children, has six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

She has 30 years experience in the legal field and presently works with the Oklahoma Healthcare Authority as a tribal liason. She presently serves a a Peacemaker with the Chickasaw Nation District Court in Ada, Okla.

She is an integral part of AARP Oklahoma Native American outreach through her work on AARP's Executive Council and chairwoman of the AARP Inter-Tribal Community Group. Her leadership and focus has been cultural preservation and improving transportation access and hunger issues.

One of her biggest accomplishments has been the creation of the annual AARP Indian Elder Honors. She has done television presentations, clips, and videos. Her volunteer work has encompassed many avenues of Native American school programs as well as church activities that include serving as secretary/treasurer, bus ministry, and Sunday School teacher in the at-risk area. She enjoys sharing the World War I history of the Choctaw Code Talkers.

Community News

AUSTIN, Texas – The Central Texas Chickasaw Council announced Annual Heritage Day will be Friday, Sept. 30 at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress Ave., Austin.

The show will be open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for students, and will open for the general public at 6 p.m.

Last year we had the biggest turnout so far. Please mark you calendar's and come support our dancers and singers. Let's make it another successful day!!

Community News

Special Permit Request

Fall Deer Hunt on Tribal Land----Kullihoma Reservation

Name:_____Phone:_____

Address:_____City:_____

State:_____Zip Code:_____Vehicle: Car--- or--- Truck

Make:_____Model:_____Color:_____

Year:_____Tag #:_____Emergency Contacts#_____

Circle Desired Hunts: Gun---------Muzzle Loader----------Traditional Bow/Arrow

Need a copy of your CDIB CARD

Please mark one of the following:

☐ Youth Hunt

☐ Adult Hunt

KULLIHOMA – Special permit requests for Chickasaw citizens to hunt deer at Kullihoma must be submitted to the Chickasaw Ranger's Department by Sept. 16 at 5 p.m.

Chickasaw hunters who wish to participate may contact the ranger's office at (580) 310-6466 for more information.

The completed permit request and attached copy of Chickasaw citizenship card or CDIB card can be mailed or hand delivered to the Chickasaw Nation Rangers Department, 221 N. Rennie, Ada, OK 74820.

Completed requests can also be emailed to Rick.Carson@Chickasaw.net.

The following dates for deer hunting are:

Youth – Oct. 14-16.

Archery – Oct. 1 through Jan. 15, 2017.

Muzzleloading – Oct. 22 -30.

Gun – Nov. 19 through Dec. 4

Kullihoma is a 1,500-acre Chickasaw tribal reserve. It is located approximately 10 miles east of Ada off State Highway 1. Signs will direct Chickasaw citizens to the location.

Chickasaw man leads historic home reclamation

"Saving Magic 11th Street" is a documentary about a unique neighborhood reclamation project spearheaded by a Chickasaw citizen.

"Saving" premiered recently at the 2016 Heritage Celebration in Garland, Texas.

The film details how Chickasaw citizen Louis Moore and his wife, Kay, brought the 103-year-old neighborhood back from decay and disregard and restored to its former position of esteem in historic downtown Garland, a Dallas suburb.

The 25-minute film was produced by the Moores' son, Chickasaw citizen Matthew J. Moore, through his company, MJM Advertising. The movie premiered at Garland's restored Plaza Theater on the downtown square.

The movie describes how the Moores moved Garland's Historic Pace House to their neighborhood as part of their efforts to take their neighborhood back. They were struck by the similarities between the Pace House, that had been threatened with demolition, and the historic Chickasaw White House near Tishomingo. Both houses date to the late 1890s, are Queen Anne style, and were of similar size and condition.

The Moores were grieved when their beloved Garland neighborhood, where they now live and where Mrs. Moore grew up, began showing signs of age. The film details their efforts to rally other 11th Street residents to create a better day for the historic area.

A cooperative effort among the neighborhood, the City of Garland, and other governmental entities helped return the "magic" to 11th Street once again.

Travis College Hill, which lies within Avenues B and D on 11th Street in Garland, was awarded a Texas Historical Marker with the relocation of Garland's historic Pace House to one of its residential tracts.

The title, "Saving Magic 11th Street," is drawn from a description by Kay's mother, Mable Wheeler, who arrived on 11th Street as a new bride in 1941 after her marriage to J.D. Wheeler. The Wheelers, who were Garland community leaders, later built a home at 412 South 11th, where they lived throughout Mrs. Moore's childhood. Mrs. Moore recalled her mother always affectionately termed the street "Magic 11th" because it had been Mable's home during many red-letter periods of her life.

Louis and Kay Moore have been active in historic preservation in Garland and Dallas. He is a trustee for Dallas' famed Heritage Village situated in Old City Park in downtown Dallas. He is in his eighth year on Garland's Plan Commission.

Mr. Moore, originally from Oklahoma City, is the grandson of Dawes original enrollee Thomas Nowell Moore.

To view the video follow the YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tIRNTTBHcp4.

Robert Perry leading Sand Springs-based company

Magnum Systems, a preferred vendor from Sand Springs, Okla., has been serving the Chickasaw Nation for over three years providing leak-free commercial roof systems. Magnum is a small independent family-owned and operated business that is fully licensed, insured and bonded.

The company has been serving the industry since 1990 throughout Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri. The company's work includes an elastomeric coating of Riverwind Casino's modified bitumen roof, an energy efficient retrofit roof installation on the Family Life Center in Ada, the removal of a built up roof with gravel on the Abbot Miller building in Ada replaced with a 60-Mil fully-adhered TPO roof system, and the reroof of Goldsby, Madill and Chisolm Trail Casinos. (photos an www.magnumroof.com)

Through the company's Facility View system, clients can upload and view any of their facilities' roofs from a desktop or tablet. Each inspection conducted by the company is uploaded to the system to provide a comprehensive history of roof deficiencies, roof repairs, areas of concern, preventative maintenance plans, and a general documentation of the overall roof system throughout its life cycle.

Chickasaw Hall of Fame Inductee Robert Perry is Magnum Systems' president. He served 29 years as a chemical engineer for Phillips 66.

In his spare time, Mr. Perry unearths Chickasaw history and has published numerous literary works on Native American figures, historical events and culture. As a citizen, Mr. Perry wants to contribute to the tribe's success and he believes the Preferred Vendor program is the avenue to make this possible.

Community News

KADA marks 20 years as Chickasaw Nation station

ADA, Okla. - The Beatles song "Sgt. Pepper" begins with, "It was 20 years ago today."

Twenty years ago this month the Chickasaw Nation completed the purchase of long-established Ada radio stations KADA AM and FM. The move came as the tribe was beginning to expand its business portfolio into new, compelling industries.

KADA AM and FM was owned primarily by the Hoover family since the station signed on the air in 1934. It was one of the first radio stations authorized in Oklahoma. Principal owner Katherine Hoover was in her 80s in 1996, and the decision was made to put the stations on the market.

Minority owner and station general manager Roger Harris was placed in charge of marketing the stations for sale.

"I didn't know Governor Anoatubby that well," Mr. Harris said. "But at lunch one day he asked if the stations were for sale. I told him 'yes' and things progressed from there."

An application was made to the Federal Communications Commission for a change of ownership and a few months later, in August 1996, the sale was closed.

"I thought at the time that it was a very savvy move for the tribe to get into the media," Mr. Harris said.

Two non-tribal stations remained in the market until 2008, when the Chickasaw Nation purchased KTLS 105.5FM and KXFC 106.5 FM.

The stations are now all under one roof at the remodeled original 1019 North Broadway building.

"Putting all the stations together gives you a remarkable efficiency by utilizing staff on all five stations," Harris said. "I am proud we have been profitable every single year, and at the same time, been able to dramatically improve the equipment in our studios and all five of our transmitter facilities. And more profit means a greater contribution to the enhancing the quality of lives of Chickasaw citizens, which is our mission."

"When the tribe purchased our stations in 1996, I could not have imagined the incredible growth of the Chickasaw Nation. I am so proud we have had a very small part in that success."

Historical Society to host genealogy workshop

WYNNEWOOD, Okla. – "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree," but what if you don't know much about the family tree?

The Wynnewood Historical Society will host a genealogy seminar at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 13, in the Eskridge Museum. The seminar will help answer those ancestry-related questions.

The event is open to the public and admission is free.

"There is a real interest among Oklahomans today to know their own story as it relates to the history of this state and nation," Wynnewood Historical Society president Nicholas A. Waters said. "We believe this event will help to further that interest too."

Oklahoma Home and Community Education Genealogy Group president Jan Beattie will make the evening presentation.

Museum doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

The Eskridge Museum is in downtown Wynnewood at 114 E. Robert S. Kerr Blvd. For more information about the museum, call (405) 642-9232, or visit Eskridge-Museum.org

Thank You

Thanks for support

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Panola District voters for participating in our recent Panola District Tribal Elections. I am humbled and honored by your vote of support. It is my goal to be of service to our Tribal citizens and always treat those I come in contact with dignity and respect. Chokmashki!

Beth Alexander
Panola District
Chickasaw Tribal Legislator

Message from Little Miss Chickasaw Lauren Key

LAUREN KEY, LITTLE MISS CHICKASAW 2015-2016

Chokma,

Hello. My name is Lauren Key. As summer draws to an end and we start back to school, I think about this time last year preparing to run for Little Miss Chickasaw. I can't believe the year has almost come and gone. I have had an amazing year representing the Chickasaw Nation as Little Miss Chickasaw!

During this time I've been to many different places, met many different people and other tribes. As ambassador for our nation, I have been honored to represent and I would like to thank everyone for their support before and during my reign. A big thanks to my mother, Summer Jones for encouraging and believing in me. I've enjoyed sharing my reign with my "sister" princesses, Raechell Meely, Lauren John and our program coordinator, Mary Hartley. I never thought I would laugh and have as much fun as Little Miss Chickasaw. I have had the time of my life and will never forget my time as Little Miss Chickasaw.

I want to tell all the girls considering running for Chickasaw princess to go for it. Give it your very best, to never give up and to always strive for excellence and remember "quit" is not a part of a Chickasaw Princess' vocabulary. When you become a Chickasaw Princess, you will represent one of the country's greatest Native American tribes.

Good luck to the future princesses. I hope you enjoy your reign as much as I enjoyed mine.

Yakoke!
Your Little Miss Chickasaw
Lauren Key

Message from Chickasaw Junior Princess Lauren John

LAUREN JOHN, CHICKASAW JR. PRINCESS 2015-2016

Chokma!

I hope everyone is enjoying a blessed summer. We have been very busy this summer and it is time for us to get ready for school.

As fall approaches, sadly, so does the end of my reign as Chickasaw Jr. Princess. I've had a wonderful time serving as princess, getting to travel to new places, meet new people and spread the knowledge of our culture. I've also had fun spending time with my fellow princesses, Raechell Meely and Lauren Key. I am glad to have served my reign with them.

I encourage Chickasaw girls to run for Chickasaw princess. The experience is unforgettable and a great opportunity to serve as a tribal ambassador. I am proud to have served the Chickasaw Nation for this past year and I wish the new princesses good luck!

Yakoke!
Your Chickasaw Jr. Princess
Lauren John

Message from Chickasaw Princess Raechell Meely

RAECHELL MEELY, CHICKASAW PRINCESS 2015-2016

Chokma,

Hello! My name is Raechell Meely. Over the past year, I have represented the Chickasaw Nation as your 2015-2016 Chickasaw Princess. I have been immeasurably blessed throughout my reign as Chickasaw Princess. I truly appreciate all the support given to us over the past year.

At this time, I would like to say thank you to everyone for all the support, gifts, time and love we have been blessed with over the past year. I want to thank all the citizens of our great nation. None of this would have been possible without you. I will forever cherish all the love and memories I have received from all of you. I would also like to express my gratitude and appreciation to our elders and our veterans. Every time I attend an event I enjoy greeting them most of all. I want to thank Gov. Anoatubby and Lt. Governor Keel for being incredibly welcoming and supportive throughout the past year. I especially want to send a big thank you to our program coordinator, Mary Hartley. She does an amazing with all of the princesses each year. She takes care of us as if we were her own daughters. I could never truly thank her enough for everything she has taught me.

I'm going to miss my Little Miss Chickasaw, Lauren Key and Chickasaw Jr. Princess, Lauren John. I will remember all the memories we've made, and I know they'll both do remarkable things.

I encourage every girl eligible to participate in the Chickasaw Princess Pageant. It is a program that does amazing things for girls. This program truly builds confidence, determination and more. You will learn a lot about yourself, history and your culture. This past year we have traveled to Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, Tennessee, New Mexico and many other amazing places. With all the traveling we've been blessed with, we've also met a lot of amazing and different people. I'm honored to have been chosen to represent our great nation over the past year, and I will remember everything it has taught me.

Chokmashki, Thank you
Raechell Meely
Your 2015-2016 Chickasaw Princess

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

CHICKASAW NATION TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
Legislative Session
Legislature Building
Ada, Oklahoma
August 19, 2016

AGENDA ITEM #1 **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

AGENDA ITEM #2 **ROLL CALL**

AGENDA ITEM #3 **INVOCATION**

AGENDA ITEM #4 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 15, 2016**

AGENDA ITEM #5 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

AGENDA ITEM #6 **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

(A) LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair David Woerz
GR33-034 **Authorization and Approval of Forest Management Plan**
(As Amended)
PR33-005 **Amendments to Title 16 of the Chickasaw Nation Code (Rules of the Legislature)**

(B) FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Toby Perkins
GR33-051 **Approval of Consolidated Governmental Budget – Fiscal Year 2017**

(C) HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Dean McManus
GR33-050 **Application for Membership, National Congress of American Indians**

(D) LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT by Committee Chair Linda Briggs
GR33-047 **Authorization and Approval of Agricultural Lease in Atoka County**
GR33-048 **Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Pontotoc County**
GR33-049 **Agricultural Lease No. G09-1866 in McCurtain County**

AGENDA ITEM #7 **NEW BUSINESS** (Comments from Citizens)

AGENDA ITEM #8 **ADJOURNMENT**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Land Development Committee · August 8, 2016
Present: Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Mary Jo Green, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Connie Barker
Absent: Beth Alexander

Finance Committee · August 8, 2016
Present: Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Connie Barker

Finance Committee · August 15, 2016
Present: Linda Briggs, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Steve Woods, Connie Barker

Human Resources Committee · August 8, 2016
Present: Katie Case, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Connie Barker

Legislative Committee · August 8, 2016
Present: Connie Barker, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods
Absent: Beth Alexander

Legislative Committee · August 15, 2016
Present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods, Connie Barker

Committee of the Whole · August 15, 2016
Present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, David Woerz, Scott Wood, Steve Woods, Connie Barker

Citizens At-Large Help Number

For information on services or help with questions, call toll-free 1-866-466-1481.

JULY 2016 LEGISLATIVE MINUTES

CHICKASAW NATION TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION
Legislature Building
Ada, Oklahoma
July 15, 2016

AGENDA ITEM #1 **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairperson Connie Barker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2 **ROLL CALL**

Members present: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Connie Barker
Members absent: David Woerz, Steve Woods
Staff present: Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary; Harold Stick, Sergeant-At-Arms; Robert Cheadle, Legislative Counsel
Guests present: Judy Foster, Michael L. Wingo, Dana Lance

AGENDA ITEM #3 **INVOCATION**
Invocation was given by Ms. Green.

AGENDA ITEM #4 **READING OF MINUTES** - July 5, 2016, June 17, 2016
A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve the June 17, 2016 minutes.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Connie Barker - 11 yes votes
The motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2016 carried unanimously.
A motion was made by Ms. Case and seconded by Mrs. Alexander to approve the July 5, 2016 minutes.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Connie Barker - 8 yes votes
Members abstaining: Nancy Elliott Toby Perkins, Scott Wood - 3 abstentions
The motion to approve the minutes of July 5, 2016 carried.

AGENDA ITEM #5: **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
There was no unfinished business.

AGENDA ITEM #6: **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**
(A) **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT** by Committee Chair Toby Perkins
General Resolution Number 33-042, Approval of Development Budget Amendment OKC Campus, Phase I
This resolution approves the amendment to the Development Budget for the OKC Campus, Phase I, Project Number 20-0191-16 in the amount of $19,164,880.00.
With the development of the Oklahoma City Campus, the Chickasaw Nation will have a permanent place in the metro area dedicated to serving the Chickasaw people. Phase I of this project will consist of construction of the OKC Community Center and the OKC Senior Center. The community center will serve as the meeting place for community counsel as well as provide a wonderful environment for families to hold various gatherings. The senior center will provide good healthy meals to our elders and a place to share fellowship and enjoy various activities offered. The site will have an abundance of activities to offer such as tennis courts, basketball courts, horse shoes, a walking trail or just picnicking by the lake.
A motion was made by Mr. Perkins and seconded by Ms. Briggs to approve GR33-042.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Connie Barker - 11 yes votes
The motion to approve GR33-042 carried unanimously.
Mr. Perkins concluded his report.

(B) **LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT** by Committee Chair Linda Briggs
General Resolution Number 33-040, Approving an Oil and Gas Lease in Favor of Stephens Production Company Continental Properties, LLC
This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's approving an Oil and Gas Lease on the Arkansas Riverbed in favor of Stephens Production, LLC, containing 360.10 acres more or less.
A motion was made by Mrs. Alexander and seconded by Ms. Case to approve GR33-040.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Connie Barker - 11 yes votes
The motion to approve GR33-040 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number 33-041, Approving an Oil and Gas Lease in Atoka County in Favor of Jess Harris III, LLC
This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's approving an Oil and Gas Lease in Atoka County, Oklahoma, containing 10 acres, more or less.
A motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Ms. Green to approve GR33-041.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Connie Barker - 11 yes votes
The motion to approve GR33-041 carried unanimously.

General Resolution Number 33-043, Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Johnston County
This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to acquire real property in Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma, for the Chickasaw Nation to be added to the Chickasaw Nation Capitol Campus, on North Fisher Street, Tishomingo, Oklahoma.
A motion was made by Mrs. Alexander and seconded by Mr. Wood to approve GR33-043.
Members voting yes: Beth Alexander, Linda Briggs, Katie Case, Tim Colbert, Nancy Elliott, Mary Jo Green, Shana Hammond, Dean McManus, Toby Perkins, Scott Wood, Connie Barker - 11 yes votes
The motion to approve GR33-043 carried unanimously.
Ms. Briggs concluded her report.

AGENDA ITEM #7 **NEW BUSINESS** (Comments from Citizens)
There was no new business to discuss. Ms. Judy Foster commented on the Elders Conference and Mrs. Alexander encouraged development in the Panola District.

AGENDA ITEM #8 **ADJOURNMENT**
The Legislative Session adjourned at 9:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Elliott, Secretary
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature
Prepared by:
Doretta Sellers, Recording Secretary
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Legislature

AUGUST 2016 RESOLUTIONS

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
General Resolution Number 33-034
Authorization and Approval of Forest Management Plan

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Public Law 101-630, Title 25, Code of Federal Regulations 163.11 and 53 IAM Chapters 2 and 8, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Chickasaw Agency is responsible for providing the Chickasaw Nation with a detailed description of the natural resources under its jurisdiction and provide a comprehensive management plan to protect and preserve said resources, and

WHEREAS, the Chickasaw Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs has submitted to the Chickasaw Nation a Forest Management Plan, particularly called Category 4, Active Forest Management for a Minimally Forested Reservation for review and approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby authorizes and approves the Forest Management Plan.

Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on August 19, 2016, by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This resolution approves the Forest Management Plan submitted by the Chickasaw Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The purpose of this Forest Management Plan (FMP) is to provide long-term resource objectives on Indian lands within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Chickasaw Nation. This FMP will provide ideas, goals, and management objectives to help determine which management alternatives, their environmental consequences, and a description of federal mandates in effect on the reservation that best fits the overall management desires of the Tribe.

AUGUST 2016 RESOLUTIONS

This plan is an enabling document. It meets the public law and BIA regulatory requirements calling for proper management and resource protection which should be in place prior to activities commencing on the ground. It is broad (allowing flexibility), and for the most part non-regulatory.

Property Location: Within the Chickasaw Nation jurisdictional boundary
Presented By: Legislative Committee

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
General Resolution Number 33-047
Authorization and Approval of Agricultural Lease in Atoka County

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Chickasaw Agency, is responsible for administering restricted and trust property, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Agricultural Lease No. G09-1876 is for grazing purposes only, on property belonging to the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, described as: All of Section 18, Township 2 North, Range 12 East, Atoka County, Oklahoma, containing 632.32 acres more or less, and

WHEREAS, the proposed lease will be for a three (3) year term beginning January 1, 2016, and expiring on December 31, 2018, with a per annum payment of $9,500.00, of which the Chickasaw Nation will receive $2,375.00 per annum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby authorizes and approves Agricultural Lease No. G09-1876 in favor of Ewing and Donna Downen.

Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on August 19, 2016, by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This resolution approves Agricultural Lease No. G09-1876, for grazing purposes only, on property belonging to the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, described as: All of Section 18, Township 2 North, Range 12 East, Atoka County, Oklahoma, containing 632.32 acres, more or less, in favor of Ewing and Donna Downen. The proposed lease will be for a three (3) year term beginning January 1, 2016, and expiring on December 31, 2018, with a per annum payment of $9,500.00, of which the Chickasaw Nation will receive $2,375.00 per annum.

Property Location: Atoka County, Choctaw Nation
Presented by: Land Development Committee

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
General Resolution Number 33-048
Authorization for Acquisition of Real Property in Pontotoc County

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Land Development Committee recommends the acquisition of real property in Ada, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma for Chickasaw Nation economic development described as follows:

A part of the W/2 NW/4 NE/4 of Section 34, Township 4 North, Range 6 East, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows; Commencing at the Northwest corner of the NE/4 of said Section 34; thence N 90°00'00" E along the North line of said Section 34 a distance of 210.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing N 90°00'00" E a distance of 240.00 feet; thence S 00°15'00" E and parallel with the West line of the NE/4 of said Section 34 a distance of 370.00 feet; thence S 90°00'00" W a distance of 240.00 feet; thence N 00°15'00" W a distance of 370.00 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 2.038 acres (88,799 square feet).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby authorizes and approves the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, or his designee, to negotiate the acquisition and conclude a Contract for the above described tract of land. Such contract shall be for a price not to exceed the Market Value Price, in accordance with the Constitution and Laws of the Chickasaw Nation and those Rules and Regulations of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the United States Department of the Interior, as they may apply to such acquisition. The Governor is authorized to request the Bureau of Indian Affairs to place the property U.S.A. in Trust for the Chickasaw Nation after acquisition, if such action is advantageous.

Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on August 19, 2016, by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This Resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's request to acquire real property in Ada, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma, for Chickasaw Nation economic development, described below:

A part of the W/2 NW/4 NE/4 of Section 34, Township 4 North, Range 6 East, Pontotoc County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows; Commencing at the Northwest corner of the NE/4 of said Section 34; thence N 90°00'00" E along the North line of said Section 34 a distance of 210.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing N 90°00'00" E a distance of 240.00 feet; thence S 00°15'00" E and parallel with the West line of the NE/4 of said Section 34 a distance of 370.00 feet; thence S 90°00'00" W a distance of 240.00 feet; thence N 00°15'00" W a distance of 370.00 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 2.038 acres (88,799 square feet).

Property Location: 1331 East Arlington, Ada, Oklahoma
Use: For Chickasaw Nation economic development
Purpose: Self-determination
Presented by: Land Development Committee

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
General Resolution Number 33-049
Agricultural Lease No. G09-1866 in McCurtain County

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Chickasaw Agency, is responsible for administering restricted and trust property, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Agricultural Lease No. G09-1866 is for grazing purposes, on property belonging to the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, described as: Lots 7, 8 and 9 of Section 16; Lots 6 and 7 of Section 20; Lots 9 thru 18 inclusive and the NE¼ SW¼ of Section 21; and Lot 6 of Section 28, all in Township 9 South, Range 24 East, McCurtain County, Oklahoma, containing 330.60 acres, more or less, in favor of Curtis Wheeler, and

WHEREAS, the proposed lease will be for a three (3) year term beginning January 1, 2015, and expiring on December 31, 2017, with a per annum payment of $3,250.00, of which the Chickasaw Nation will receive $812.50.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby authorizes and approves Agricultural Lease No. G09-1866 in favor of Curtis Wheeler.

Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on August 19, 2016, by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This resolution approves Agricultural Lease No. G09-1866, for grazing purposes on property belonging to the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, described as: Lots 7, 8 and 9 of Section 16; Lots 6 and 7 of Section 20; Lots 9 thru 18 inclusive and the NE¼ SW¼ of Section 21; and Lot 6 of Section 28, all in Township 9 South, Range 24 East, McCurtain County, Oklahoma, containing 330.60 acres, more or less, in favor of Curtis Wheeler. The proposed lease will be for a three (3) year term beginning on January 1, 2015, and expiring on December 31, 2017, with a per annum payment of $3,250.00, of which the Chickasaw Nation will receive $812.50.

Property Location: McCurtain County
Presented by: Land Development Committee

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
General Resolution Number 33-050
Application for Membership, National Congress of American Indians

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the nation, and

WHEREAS, the Chickasaw Nation wishes to retain its membership in good standing in the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and

WHEREAS, the Chickasaw Nation meets all requirements for tribal membership pursuant to Article II Section B(I) of the Constitution of NCAI, and

WHEREAS, based on the population of Chickasaw citizens of 63,433, the Chickasaw Nation shall be entitled to 180 votes at the NCAI annual convention.

AUGUST 2016 RESOLUTIONS

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby authorizes and approves the Chickasaw Nation's application for membership in the National Congress of American Indians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Governor Bill Anoatubby is designated to serve as the delegate for the Chickasaw Nation at the annual convention of the National Congress of American Indians, with first alternate being Lt. Governor Jefferson Keel and the second alternate being Tribal Legislator David Woerz.

Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma on August 19, 2016, by a vote of 13 ayes 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This resolution approves the Chickasaw Nation's application for membership in the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). This is virtually the same application which is submitted to the legislature for approval each year. The NCAI has been instrumental in supporting issues of importance to Native Americans. As an independent group, NCAI is representative of the largest concentration of Native Americans, and is often called upon by Congress to provide information and testimony on important Indian subjects. The Chickasaw Nation has been a member in good standing in NCAI since the early 1980s. This resolution names the representatives of the Chickasaw Nation to NCAI.

Presented by: Human Resources Committee

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
General Resolution Number 33-051
Approval of Consolidated Governmental Budget - Fiscal Year 2017

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Governor has submitted the proposed Consolidated Governmental budget for fiscal year 2017, and

WHEREAS, the Consolidated Governmental Budget is a combination of the General Fund and the Tribal Budget, and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature has reviewed this budget and recommends it for approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby approves the Tribal Budget in the amount of $7,208,000 and the General Fund Budget in the amount of $198,269,619 for the total Consolidated Governmental Budget of $205,477,619.

Executed in Regular Session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on August 19, 2016, by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This resolution approves the Consolidated Governmental Budget for fiscal year 2017 in the amount of $205,477,619.

Presented By: Finance Committee

CHICKASAW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE
Permanent Resolution Number 33-005
Amendments to Title 16 of the Chickasaw Nation Code
(Rules of the Legislature)

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article VII, Sections 4 and 7 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature shall enact rules and regulations pertaining to the Chickasaw Nation, and shall make decisions pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition and management of real property, subject to federal law, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation, the Governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature has previously enacted rules for the conduct of its meetings, and

WHEREAS, the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature desires to amend those rules.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature hereby approves and adopts the following amendments to Title 16 of the Chickasaw Nation Code, all other sections and parts of sections to remain the same (additions are shown in red, deletions are stricken through):

SECTION 16-201.1 SESSIONS AND MEETINGS.

A. Regular Sessions of the Legislature shall be held on the third Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Legislative Building, Chickasaw Nation Headquarters, ~~Nation headquarters office~~ unless otherwise provided by the Legislature.

SECTION 16-201.4 COMMITTEES AND RULES.

A. Committee Appointments and Rules.

2. The Chairperson or Committee Chair shall call a Committee Meeting as he deems necessary. The Chairperson ~~Each Committee Chair~~ shall designate another Committee member as Committee Chair Pro Tempore to conduct the Committee meetings in the absence of the Committee Chair. ~~If, either, the Committee Chair or Committee Chair Pro Tempore are unable to attend a Committee meeting, then the Committee members, in attendance, shall select someone from among their numbers to conduct the meeting.~~

B. Standing Committees' Structure and Purpose.

5. The following are Standing Committees of the Tribal Legislature, the provinces of some which may, from time to time, best be addressed within the structure of a Joint Committee, Special/Select Committee, Ad Hoc Committee, or the Committee of the Whole, as determined by the Chairperson:

e. The Land Development Committee shall be responsible for proposed Legislation pertaining to the acquisition, leasing, disposition, and management of real property of the Chickasaw Nation. Sub-committees may include, but are not limited to, all real property acquisition, leasing, disposition, and management~~, and review of the Chickasaw Housing Authority.~~

F. An "Ad Hoc Committee" is a Committee appointed by the Chairperson as needed, comprised of members and possibly non-members of the Legislature who investigate and report on specific matters. Only Legislators appointed to an Ad Hoc Committee shall be voting members of that Committee or serve as its Committee Chair. All other members appointed to an Ad Hoc Committee shall be advisory, only. It is dissolved by the Chairperson when that function is deemed to have been served. ~~An Ad Hoc Committee designated the "Election Rules and Regulations Ad Hoc Committee" shall be a permanent Ad Hoc Committee.~~ The following are permanent Ad Hoc Committees of the Tribal Legislature:

1. Election Rules and Regulations Ad Hoc Committee. This Committee may meet at any time throughout the year at the discretion of the Committee Chair; however, the Committee may conduct business only in accordance with the rules set forth in Paragraph 16-201.5.B.2 below.

G. "Committee of the Whole" or "COW" means the Legislature meeting in informal session.

1. Committee of the Whole meets monthly on the Monday immediately preceding the third Friday of each month in Sulphur at the Artesian Resort in the second floor conference room. Quorum for a COW meeting is nine (9) Legislators. The public is invited. The purpose of the monthly COW meeting is to announce the agenda for the Legislative Session, amend or withdraw legislation already assigned

SEE **RESOLUTIONS,** PAGE16

Apila Center to expand Chickasaw Nation Medical Center capacity

ADA, Okla. – Ground was broken July 29 on a new health support building on the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center campus in Ada.

Governor Bill Anoatubby and tribal dignitaries formally initiated the project known as the Apila Center. The center will serve Native families by opening up more space in the Medical Center for direct health care services. An increase in the number of patient visits led to the new addition.

"More Chickasaws and other Native Americans are coming to the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center because it has earned a reputation for providing high quality health care," Gov. Anoatubby said. "We served more than 800,000 patient visits last year, and we expect that number to continue to grow."

The translation of the Chickasaw "Apila" is "to help."

Once completed, the 38,000 square-foot, two-story facility will house offices, training centers and meeting rooms. Construction of the Apila Center will allow for expansions of family practice, internal medicine, optometry, mental health and pediatrics in the Medical Center.

About 100 employees will move from the Medical Center to the new Apila Center.

As a part of the renovations to the main Medical Center, a Family Medicine Residency Clinic and other specialty care services will be added.

The expansion follows other recent additions to the Medical Center campus. In April, ground was broken on three new buildings which will enable the Chickasaw Nation to better serve women and children, as well as expanding emergency medical services.

Ground was broken July 29 on the new Apila Center on the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center campus. The new health support building will help by opening up space for direct health care services at the Medical Center.

In May, the tribe broke ground near the Medical Center on a Veterans' Lodge. Chickasaw veterans will use the lodge to gather and enjoy fellowship.

In 2013, the Chikasha House was dedicated on the Medical Center campus. Chikasha House offers lodging accommodations to families and caretakers of long-term patients at the hospital. More than 1,700 families have utilized Chikasha House facilities since its opening.

"I am really excited about the future of the Chickasaw Nation, and the future of health care in the Chickasaw Nation," Gov. Anoatubby said. "The advances we have made over the past two decades have truly been astounding. And the Apila Center is yet another improvement."

CONTRIBUTED BY Brandon Frye, Public Affairs.

Dance instructors sought for studio

Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities is accepting instructor applications for the Chickasaw Nation Dance Studio. The new dance facility will offer a full roster of classes in various styles and levels of dance.

If interested in teaching, please include the following information in a letter of interest:

1) Styles of dance you want to teach.

2) Desired teaching level: beginner, intermediate, advanced, semi-professional, professional. Children or Adults.

3) A brief description of training and experience.

4) A brief paragraph describing your teaching philosophy.

5) Resume/vita.

Providing examples of your work is highly recommended.

Send to: Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities Division, ATTN: David Pershica, P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74821 or fax to (580) 272-5525.

For more information, contact David Pershica at David.Pershica@Chickasaw.net.

Chickasaw youth leadership students attend UNITY conference

OKLAHOMA CITY - Sixteen members of the Chickasaw Nation youth leadership group Chikasha Pehlichi Ikbi attended the 40th Annual United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) Conference, July 22-26 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

"We were fortunate our Chickasaw Chikasha Pehlichi Ikbi members have the opportunity to attend the 40th Annual UNITY Conference," youth leadership manager Amber Carey said. "Our youth leadership program joined hundreds of other native youth leaders from tribes across the United States. Together they learned personal development and leadership skills, and celebrated the anniversary of UNITY."

UNITY was founded in 1976 by Oklahoma native J.R. Cook. The organization promotes personal development, citizenship and leadership among Indian youth.

Over 1,600 Indian youth and advisers from across the country gathered for the conference. This conference helps youth develop leadership skills, meet and network with other youth leadership organizations and develop a sense of pride.

"This conference is to help youth appreciate their culture and to uphold their ancestors' values," group member Tyler Rodgers said. "I have new friends and have met so many interesting people. I have met native youth from Shoshone tribe, Chinook tribe and natives of Hawaii. It was great to see all of these different cultures unite."

Chikasha Pehlichi Ikbi members at the UNITY Conference in Oklahoma City. Front row from left, Madison Shulanberger, Roff High School; Kiersten Tankersly, Sulphur High School; Faithlyn Seawright, Southeastern Oklahoma State University; Hailey Ellis, Ada High School; Sunzie Harrison, Allen High School; Jordan Goodman, Sulphur High School; Brea Schultz, Purcell High School. Back row from left, Taylor Taliaferro, University of Central Oklahoma; Kelsey Norton, University of Oklahoma; Jacob Moody, home school; Tyler Rodgers, East Central University; Jarrett Ellis, Ada High School; Matt Ayers, Edmond Memorial High School; Tyler Madison, Blanchard High School. Not pictured, Elijah Factor, Latta High School; and Mychal Barnett, Byng High School.

On the first day, the UNITY fire was lighted in front of the convention center. Elders joined around the fire and shared stories about life on the reservation and discriminations they endured.

"It was so interesting to hear the elders speak about their experiences and what they have done for us," Tyler said. "It makes me appreciate my culture even more."

Chikasha Pehlichi Ikbi members attended breakout sessions and heard inspirational speakers including Native American Olympian Billy Mills and UNITY founder J.R. Cook.

The conference focused on Indian women's issues including safety and rights, and verbal and physical abuse.

A hand up to a good life

Re-Entry program lays out path of redemption for participants

SULPHUR, Okla. – New beginnings are taking shape for the Chickasaw Nation Re-Entry program, an initiative in the business of offering fresh starts to Chickasaw citizens.

Re-Entry is a service and training program whose sole mission is to professionally prepare recent Chickasaw parolees to "become self-sufficient and employable, Re-Entry program assistant director Thomas Keel said.

"It is a program that serves Chickasaws, communities and businesses."

The Sulphur Re-Entry facility was formerly Brookhaven Manor, a senior assisted living home. Located at 2600 W. 14th, the new facility can accommodate 24 participants living at the location. Currently, 13 Chickasaws reside there.

In total, Mr. Keel said, 24 Chickasaw participants are taking part in the program.

"Of course, some of our clients live with their parents or with a spouse," he said. "They may take part in our program, work, study and train at the new facility without actually living here."

Six one-bedroom facilities are available and 15 two-bedroom facilities are on-site. The Chickasaw Nation is reworking the building to include a workout room, storm shelter, computer lab, training classroom and offices.

"It really is a beautiful building and we're excited about the future," Mr. Keel said.

Re-Entry participants work for the Chickasaw Nation when they enter the program. Employment can range from landscaping to office work. The work week is four days with each Friday dedicated to training.

"As part of the training, participants learned about the Nation's history and culture," Mr. Keel said. "The Chickasaw language is incorporated into the training. Participants learn how to budget, to cook and maintain healthy relationships in marriage and in working, professional environments. We teach them to stay well and active. We teach them how to prepare resumes and put their best foot forward to find jobs and be self-sufficient."

Re-Entry often brings about generational changes. The program breaks cycles by having a positive impact on not only the lives of participants but on their families.

After participants have been with the Re-Entry program a few months, the real benefit of the program begins to shine.

"We direct participants to potential job openings both within and outside of the tribe," Mr. Keel said. "The majority of participants will find employment within the tribe. We will place participants in the workforce and pay their salaries while they participate in on-the-job training. This gives employers an opportunity to see their work ethic and determine if the worker is a 'fit' for the department. And it is a win-win for employers in the community and Chickasaw Nation departments.

"We have dozens of success stories and nothing breeds success like success," he said.

Tribal program reshaping lives of Chickasaws

SULPHUR, Okla. – It is a program outside the spotlight of Chickasaw Nation endeavors making a difference in the lives of Chickasaw citizens.

The Chickasaw Nation's Re-Entry Program provides a second chance for citizens who have stumbled but wish to find firm footing again living life, raising families, mending strained relationships and becoming quality workers.

"The success stories far exceed the setbacks," Re-Entry assistant director Thomas Keel said. "Those who apply to take part in the program come away changed for the better. They are determined to lead productive lives and follow a path of success."

The program was recently moved to the former Brookhaven Manor at 2600 W. 14th. Brookhaven Manor was formerly an assisted living facility for the elderly when it became available to purchase. It was perfect for Re-Entry, so the Chickasaw Nation bought it. Not all participants live on-site.

David Scott and son

Amy and Asst. Dir. Thoma Keel

Cody Tatum

Many participants who have moved on to productive lives and nice jobs explained what the program meant for them and how it changed their lives.

CODY TATUM

Cody Tatum entered the Re-Entry program Oct. 24, 2015, 30 days after his release from prison.

Family relationships were strained and he said he had lost trust with his mother. Cody saw people completing Re-Entry and it gave him hope.

When asked if the cultural presentations and the tour at the Chickasaw Cultural Center increased his pride in being Chickasaw he said, "It was the first time I had ever been able to speak my language and the things I saw gave me pride in how far we had come. The Re-Entry program gave me a way to change my life for the better.

"Today I have regained the trust of my mother. I'm married with a new little girl and I have gained custody of my 10-year-old boy and nine-year-old girl. Life always has challenges but I still have hope for the future. We have a home, I own a car, and I love my job with the Chickasaw Nation. I'm very grateful and proud to be Chickasaw."

Cody was hired by Chickasaw Nation Landscaping in Ada May 4, 2016, and remains a valued employee.

DAVID SCOTT

David Scott entered the Re-Entry program Jan. 2, 2014. He was released directly from the Oklahoma Department of Corrections to the tribe's Sulphur living facility.

David brought with him a desire to change and a willingness to work.

"I found hope with Re-Entry," he said. "The staff encouraged me to move forward and they gave me the tools to be successful.

"The program works. I am so thankful to the Chickasaw Nation and the staff of the Re-Entry program for an opportunity at a new life. The staff has a true heart (for people). They care. It is more than a job to them."

The program, David said, had impacted his family in positive ways.

"Today I have a wife and I am raising my son," he said. "I have a home as well as a great Job with a future. None of this would have been possible without the Chickasaw Nation and the Re-Entry program."

David was placed with Prism Electrical Contractors May, 30, 2014, and remains a valued employee.

AMY

A failed marriage and addiction drove Amy back into a pattern of poor life choices. Those elements led her to the doorstep of the Chickasaw Nation Re-Entry Program.

"Through work and building positive relationships, I was able to strengthen my character and am on my way to becoming what I think I was always meant to be – a responsible parent and good worker with a future that includes education and advancement," she said.

The Re-Entry staff had been a big reason for her turnaround.

"The staff was a positive support group that helped me to redirect my thinking. I had opportunities to accomplish things like attaining my GED. My children were very proud of that and that made me very happy," she said.

Additionally, relationships with parents, children, co-workers and a significant other have strengthened and are very important to Amy.

"I look forward to a bright future," she said.

Being reintroduced to her Chickasaw heritage paid dividends for Amy and her children.

"Yes, I love studying the history and I am passing this on to my children," she said. "I'm not sure where I would be if it were not for the Re-Entry program."

In addition to providing training and counseling, Re-Entry has made it possible for her to reestablish family ties that once were strained.

"I feel as if I'm a better parent for my children and my mom and I have become very close again," Amy said.

Each day, Amy believes she is contributing to the Chickasaw Nation and its core mission statement to "improve the overall quality of life of Chickasaw people."

"I feel I am a part of something bigger than myself. I really love the people I work with and that's important because we see each other a lot."

Amy went to work for Ardmore Tobacco in June 2015.

Priority on Indian children

Tribe recognized for work promoting responsible foster care

ADA, Okla. – The Chickasaw Nation was recently recognized for its efforts on behalf of quality foster care for Chickasaw children.

Rafael Lopez, the federal commissioner of the children, youth and families division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, complimented the Chickasaw Nation during an anniversary celebration at tribal headquarters July 12.

It has been a year since the Chickasaw Nation and HHS executed an agreement for Title IV-E funds to implement the Chickasaw Nation Foster Care Program. Title IV-E helps provide safe and stable out-of-home care for children. It also makes it possible for Indian tribes to operate foster care programs through direct government-to-government relationships with the federal government.

The anniversary comes at a time when the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act – designed to keep Native children in Native homes and Native communities – faces challenges on multiple fronts.

"You are one of the few nations in the country that is actually operating your own Title IV-E program and that is no small feat," Mr. Lopez said. "(We) are proud to partner with the Chickasaw Nation and its Department of Family Services to prioritize tribal cultural norms and serve direct tribal connections that are in the best interest of Chickasaw children."

Governor Bill Anoatubby, left, and Rafael Lopez, commissioner of the children, youth and families division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, are shown with the Title IV-E document, signed one year ago.

Governor Bill Anoatubby said the anniversary was of great importance to the Chickasaw Nation.

"One year ago when we received approval to administer Title IV-E funding, it was a big step for us in providing the best foster care possible, he said.

"It is an achievement that both helps our young people and reinforces the tribe's sovereignty," Gov. Anoatubby said. "We celebrate this accomplishment because it establishes foster care fully operated by the Chickasaw Nation for the benefit of our citizens.

"The Chickasaw Nation has a vision for the future. We envision a future in which every Native American child has a safe and loving home to call his own. A future where every Native American tribe has full power over the protection and placement of their children. A future of unquestioned tribal sovereignty and unending security for our people."

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Kids rock McSwain Theatre during School-Age Variety Show

ADA, Okla. - A full house at the McSwain Theatre in Ada buzzed as children in the Chickasaw Nation School-Aged Summer Program prepared to perform their annual end-of-summer Variety Show on August 3.

"With close to 400 children in our program we knew that we had an exciting adventure ahead of us and a wonderful opportunity to touch lives," Chickasaw Nation School-Aged and After School Care Manager Chris Johnson said.

The program's student population doubled compared to previous years, spurring program staff to add extra classrooms, teachers and equipment to accommodate the swell.

Throughout the summer, children completed activities with theme "Dream Big." Students created art that was displayed in the lobby of the theatre on performance day. Acts ranged from choreographed dances to musical performances, special talents and skits. The Variety Show was the crescendo of an action-packed summer for the program participants. Rows of tiny tennis shoes peeked under the red curtains as the light dimmed.

"In front of two packed houses our children performed their hearts out and provided a show and memories that will last a lifetime," Mr. Johnson said. "It is rewarding to see children who began the summer quiet and shy break out of their shells, gain confidence, make new friends and have the time of their lives."

Crowd favorites during the show included a glow-in-the-dark dance medley, a hula-hooper, a Harlem Globetrotter-inspired basketball performance and a lip sync battle.

Over the summer, students enjoyed a well-rounded curriculum plus exciting field trips to destinations in Ada, Oklahoma City and more.

A partnership with the Ada Public Library encouraged summer reading. Children read for incentives over the summer months. Many program participants read over 25 books during the program. The Chickasaw Nation Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program made weekly visits to both child care sites, bringing a variety of educational activities. Children also practiced the Chickasaw language and learned Chickasaw core values through a weekly "word of the week."

At the Variety Show classroom teachers and staff led groups of preschoolers through choreographed routines to "Eye of the Tiger" and "Ghostbusters." The kids were full of energy and smiles.

"It takes special people to work with children and I can honestly say that we have some of the best around," Mr. Johnson said. "The summer program does not happen without their hard work and commitment. They definitely dreamed big."

Chickasaw kids perform at the School-Aged Summer Program Variety Show.

Emotional, financial support of children

'I Love My Child' gathering brings over 500 out for celebration

ADA, Okla. - The "toot-toot" of the kiddie train, the beat of rock music and the sound of laughter set the scene for the annual "I Love My Child" Family Fun Day at Wintersmith Park, August 6 in Ada. Over 500 people attended on an overcast and humid summer morning.

The event is hosted by the Chickasaw Nation and organized by the tribe's Child Support Services staff. It highlights the importance of supporting children both financially and emotionally.

Carnival-style activities included rubber duck races, a dunk tank, a bouncy house, and hay bale bowling lanes. There were also lots of school supplies, toothbrushes and educational information available to the community.

The event happened with the efforts of about 100 staff members and volunteers who showed up to serve at resource booths and activity stations and give families a memorable experience.

"The purpose of this event is to promote the importance of child support and recognize our child support professionals who work extremely hard to help children gain the support they need to thrive," Child Support Services director Josh Bess said.

Live entertainment from the Chickasaw Nation included demonstrations from Science, Technology and Math Academy groups, the Metal Mayhem Robotics League and First LEGO League. Team Metal Mayhem brought their catch-playing bot "Smirven" that can toss basketballs up to 50 feet.

A lively dance performance by the Chickasaw Nation Performing Arts Dance School and a Chickasaw Nation Martial Arts program demonstration were met with approval.

An unplugged performance from Chickasaw singer/songwriter Sophia Wells featured fun covers and an original song written by Ms. Wells. A graduate of the Academy of Contemporary Music at the University of Oklahoma, Ms. Wells, who performs under the stage name Swells, recently released her debut single, "White Noise."

Thirty-one booths provided plenty to see.

Ronnie Buck, a Chickasaw Nation employee, has attended the event for the past three years. Mr. Buck made his trip to the park a family affair, enjoying festivities with his mom, sister, niece, nephew and his sons, ages seven and five.

"We had a great time," he said, exploring the park with his boys outfitted in new backpacks filled with school supplies and holstering balloon swords.

The summer food program was extended by one day to provide food to everyone in attendance. Guests enjoyed hoagies, snow cones and plenty of bottled water. The summer food program provides free, nutritious meals at Chickasaw Nation youth camps and clinics and other community locations, Monday through Friday, from June 1-Aug. 6. Summer meals were provided to all children.

Chickasaw Nation dental therapist Lisa Flatt promotes good dental care with a youngster during the Aug. 6 "I Love My Child" celebration at Wintersmith Park in Ada, Okla. Over 500 people showed up to show their support for proper emotional and financial support of children.

August is nationally recognized as "Child Support Awareness Month." Chickasaw Nation Child Support Services helps children thrive by providing child support collection assistance and connecting citizens with other resources to enhance the quality of Chickasaw lives.

Last fiscal year, Chickasaw Nation Child Support Services assisted 1,495 families with the collection of over $3 million in child support. By providing for their child's basic needs through financial and emotional support, parents can help their families thrive, regardless of custody issues.

The Chickasaw Nation takes a unique approach to child support collection. Rather than incarcerating the noncustodial parent, a Tribal Enforcement Payment Project is available. Participants who choose to take advantage of this alternative work one-on-one with a coordinator to remove barriers to self-sufficiency. Coordinators assist with job search, resource referrals, interview and resume skills, and transportation.

Child Support Services also offer a Family Connections Program. This component supports families with services that encourage career and educational success, healthy lifestyle skills and a cultural connection.

To learn more about the Chickasaw Nation Child Support Services visit www.chickasaw.net.

Chickasaw Choir program open to kids age 6-18

A new choir and voice program is open to both Native and non-native children.

The Chickasaw Choir program offers children's choir for ages eight through 12, and vocal development lessons for ages 13 through 18.

A training choir is open to children ages six and seven.

Classes will be offered in both Ada and Ardmore, will run from Monday, Sept. 12 through Thursday, Dec. 1.

For more information, contact Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520.

Students ages 6-18 can apply now for Junior Native Explorers program

Applications are now being accepted for the Chickasaw Nation Junior Native Explorers Program.

The Chickasaw Nation Native Explorers Program is an innovative, hands-on, professional mentor-led education program. The program recruits, trains and educates young people in the areas of Earth science, natural science, biomedical science and medicine.

Students will participate in unique learning experiences including archeological expeditions, anatomy explorations, natural resources and preservation initiatives. Students will also learn about the various career opportunities and internships available within these fields.

All Native American students ages six to 18 who reside in the Ada or Ardmore areas, are eligible to apply.

For more information, or to receive an application, contact Kresta Lofton at (580) 421-7711 or kresta.lofton@chickasaw.net.

Plein air painting class Oct. 21-23

SULPHUR, Okla. - Chickasaw Nation Art and Humanities will host a plein air painting workshop with Gay Faulkenberry, Oct. 21, 22, and 23 at the ARTesian Gallery and Studios in Sulphur. This workshop will provide students with instruction and techniques for painting outdoors.

Ms. Faulkenberry has been a force on the American art scene for more than two decades. Known for her impressionistic approach to color and light, she is renowned for plein-air paintings of urban and rural landscapes and for studio paintings of close still-lifes, florals and interiors.

Cost is $300 for the workshop, $150 is due at sign-up. Make checks payable to the Chickasaw Nation Arts and Humanities.

For more information, or to enroll, contact Art and Humanities at (580)272-5520.

Remember to update your address!

Update your contact information and stay connected with a free subscription to the Chickasaw Times, community meeting notices, citizen information and the annual Programs & Services guide.

To access a change of address form, visit www.chickasaw.net/addresschange or call toll free at (888) 661-0137.

Updates are quick and easy. Forms can be completed online or printed, completed and mailed to Chickasaw Nation Election Office, P.O. Box 695, Ada, OK 74821.

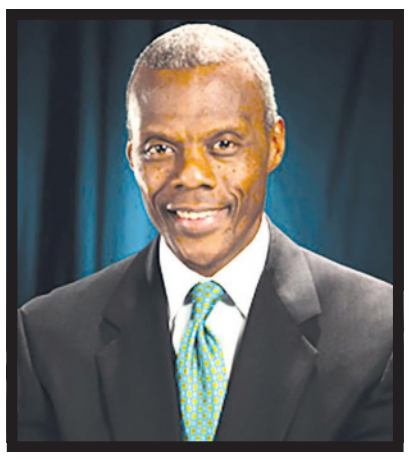
Tribe assists local families during Feed the Children caravan in Ada

ADA, Okla. - The Chickasaw Nation, Feed the Children, Legal Shield, the Boy Scouts and Ada Coca-Cola Bottling partnered July 27 to serve 760 families from the Ada area. The event was an opportunity for members of the community to learn about available health care, nutrition and family services, share a meal provided by Chickasaw Nation nutrition services and even get a back-to-school haircut.

Barber Sherry Amador volunteered her services at the event.

"I've never participated in an event like this before," she said. "I am excited to be a part of it. "

Outside, four staging areas awaited recipients. Each family received a box of food, household essentials, some Avon products, soup, a case of water and a book.



Feed the Children President and CEO J.C. Watts

A total of 130 volunteers from sponsoring agencies loaded the boxes into cars for five hours in the Oklahoma afternoon sun, greeting each carload with a smile.

Volunteers from the Chickasaw Nation load supplies during the July 27 Feed the Children Summer Food Caravan at the Agri-Plex in Ada, Okla. Volunteers loaded 760 vehicles during the event.

Former U.S. Rep. J.C. Watts is the newly appointed president and CEO of Feed the Children.

"Oklahoma ranks forty-fourth in the United States for families living in poverty," he said. "That means there are only six states that rank worse than we do in this area. We need to take care of our fellow Oklahomans, our neighbors. Feed the Children is at the tip of the spear when it comes to addressing hunger and poverty. It's our responsibility to stand in the gap and help those in need. Our hope is that together, we can defeat hunger in Oklahoma."

Feed the Children hits the road in the summer, bringing semis of supplies all over the U.S. Ada was one of many stops in Oklahoma this summer.

To learn more about Feed the Children visit www.feedthechildren.org.

State tennis champ traces success to Chickasaw Nation camp

Lauren Burden, Chickasaw citizen and high school state tennis champ, traces her success on the court to her first tribal tennis camp.

"It all started with Chickasaw tennis camp that first year," Miss Burden said. "I had never played before and didn't know what to expect. I remember thinking, 'I want to do this again.'"

Do it again she did, and her experience eventually led to a high school state tennis title. She and her teammate won this year's Oklahoma Class 4A Division 2 Doubles championship at the Oklahoma City Tennis Center.

"My doubles partner and I have known each other since we were in junior high," she said. "We played together in eighth grade but hadn't played together since then. This is the first year we were together again."

It was a winning combination. Lauren and teammate Morganne Freeman racked up 33 victories against just four losses, all of the losing efforts a result of playing much larger 6A schools. "We lost twice to Tulsa Union and once to Jenks," Miss Burden said. "We lost once to Edmond North and came back to beat them later."

Ada High School tennis had a great year overall. This year marked the first time since 1998 that both boys' and girls' teams took state.

"That makes twenty state championships for tennis!" Miss Burden exclaimed. "Our coach (Skip Griese) started crying and shouting, 'Twenty!'"

Miss Burden said one of the secrets to her doubles team's success on the court was, in a way, division of labor.

"Playing the net is definitely my thing," she said. "If I was serving and Morganne was at the net, I would rush the net and she would move back. She would always move to the baseline because she can hit lobs and stay more consistent. I would rush the net because I'm the one who can attack."

This year will be Miss Burden's 10th summer participating in the Chickasaw tennis camp, where she said the emphasis is always on having fun.

"(The coaches) will help you with your strokes and your serve and all that, but they want to make it fun for you, so they'll have participants play a lot of games," she said.

She finds it interesting, she said, to see younger children at the camp learning the basics and realizing how far her game has progressed since she was that age.

She also plays on the Chickasaw Nation tennis team as a singles player.

Despite having one year of high school remaining, Miss Burden is already thinking of life after college.

"I'd like to do athletic training or environmental law," she said.

LAUREN BURDEN

One gets the impression that whatever field of endeavor Miss Burden chooses, she will approach it in the same manner she does the net on a tennis court – aggressively and with a winning attitude.

CONTRIBUTED BY Loné Beasley, Media Relations.

Athletic, tribal scholarships key

Player warms to softball in private school setting

ADA, Okla. – Tasia Nelson's mind was made up.

She would sit out her final year of softball eligibility at Byng (OK) High School in 2016.

Playing softball wasn't fun anymore.

Call it burn out or achievement fatigue. Whatever the definition, the 17-year-old daughter of Chickasaw citizen DeMarcus Nelson and wife, Maurisa, was ready to quit athletics and concentrate on finishing high school, then enrolling at Murray State College in Tishomingo, Okla.

However, Tasia changed her mind about softball. She had been a shortstop, but when she returned to the team she was slotted at catcher due to a classmate's injury.

Behind home plate, she excelled.

Her defensive play was exceptional. She was quickly noticed by coaches and college recruiters. They saw her raw talent and knew it could be refined into a position on a college team.

Shortly before the season ended, Tasia's phone rang. Southwestern Christian University was on the other end of the call. Would she be interested in playing for the Pentecostal university founded in Bethany, Okla., in 1946?

"Yes," Tasia answered.

She was willing to take a tour of the campus and meet with SCU coaches. When the tour and talk concluded, the Nelsons hopped in the car and headed to Ada. Before they reached home, Tasia received a text message from SCU coach Kent Williams. He wrote he was looking forward to Tasia's decision and hoped she would select SCU.

"Diamond dust" explodes from the catcher's mitt of Tasia Nelson. The 17-year-old Byng (OK) High School softball standout has accepted a scholarship to play for Southwestern Christian University in Bethany, Oklahoma. The Chickasaw girl has been active in athletics since she was about five years old. (Photo courtesy of Richard R. Barron of The Ada News)

"SCU has been great and very attentive," Maurisa Nelson said. "She reported Aug. 12."

SCU is a private school. Its prices reflect its status. However, with the scholarship to play, along with Chickasaw Nation education scholarships, Tasia will receive a quality education.

"Without the Chickasaw Nation, we would be asking 'can we afford this' rather than moving Tasia to her dorm," DeMarcus Nelson said.

"I have always said 'thank God for the Chickasaw Nation,'" Maurisa Nelson said. "It makes it possible for families to take advantage of opportunities that would be out of reach for many if it were not for the tribe's dedication to education and to Chickasaw families."

As for Tasia, the softball standout is an attractive, soft-spoken young lady. Like many 17-year olds, she is undecided on a major and will commit two years to core courses before deciding on a major.

"I don't know," Tasia answered when asked what path she wished her life to follow. While Maurisa Nelson finds the answer a little unsettling, DeMarcus Nelson sees its worth and supports his daughter.

"Taking a couple of years to decide where your heart is seems like an intelligent plan," he said.

DeMarcus Nelson is pretty laid back. He likes to "take things a day at a time." He operates heavy equipment for the Chickasaw Nation.

Maurisa Nelson, on the other hand, is advertising director at the hometown daily newspaper, The Ada News. She's in sales and usually seals deals quickly, or at least has answers and solves problems in a flash.

The parents agree SCU and getting a quality education are good moves for Tasia.

CONTRIBUTED BY Gene Lehmann, Media Relations.

Foster grandparents fulfill important role for kids

ADA, Okla. - The Chickasaw Nation is accepting applications for mentors. Volunteers, age 55 and older, can remain physically and mentally active while enhancing self-esteem through participation in needed community services.

Mentors offer guidance, support and educational assistance to children in local public schools, Chickasaw Nation Child Development Centers and Head Start Centers.

Research shows seniors in rural areas who volunteer lead healthier lifestyles, are less likely to suffer from depression and stay connected and active.

This opportunity is provided through a partnership with the Foster Grandparent Program, a federal grant-funded mentoring program for seniors. This organization benefits both volunteers and the children who need one-on-one time and attention.

Foster grandparents can serve between 15 to 40 hours per week and receive hourly stipends for their service, as well as meals, recognition and transportation cost reimbursements.

For more information, or to obtain an application, contact Education at (580) 421-7711 or visit www.chickasaw.net.

Kullihoma stomp dance Sept. 23

KULLIHOMA - Chickasaw Nation Cultural Resources will host a stomp dance Friday, Sept. 23, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Kullihoma. The event is open to the public. Food and refreshments will be served.

Kullihoma is located seven miles northeast of Ada on State Highway 1, then three miles east and one mile south.

For more information, contact Chickasaw Nation Cultural Resources at (580) 622-7140.

It works!

Become a foster family and change a Chickasaw child's life forever

ADA, Okla. – A great need exists for foster families within the Chickasaw Nation.

According to data published in the Chickasaw Nation 2015 Progress Report, Child Welfare Services provided support for an average of 1,023 Chickasaws each month including child protection services, permanency planning, foster care and adoption services.

The Chickasaw Nation Foster Care and Adoption Program serves the needs of Native American children placed in tribal or state custody. The goal of the program is reunification of families while providing a safe and nurturing environment for children. Kendra Lowden, Chickasaw Nation foster care resource manager, reports there are currently 65 resource homes within the Chickasaw Nation program and over 400 Chickasaw children nationwide who are in foster care, over 300 of those in Oklahoma.

Three sisters were recently reunited through the Chickasaw Nation's Foster Care and Adoption Program. The girls - ages seven, 12 and 14 - were placed in separate foster homes in different cities. Their grandmother, a Chickasaw citizen, became involved, working through the program to foster and eventually adopt the three sisters.

"My primary goal was to keep them together," she said. "I knew if they were placed in separate homes I might not know where they were until they were adults. I wanted to get all three of them so they could grow up together."

The Chickasaw Nation Foster Care and Adoption Program walked the grandmother through the paperwork, home studies, visits and training to help her prepare for caring for the girls. She attended day seminars that included parenting guidance protocols and resources to help with the girls. She was prepared for challenges that may have been presented with the transition. After fostering the sisters for several months, the adoption was complete, and so was her family.

"This was something I wanted to do for them so they would have some stability," the grandmother said. "They have adjusted really well. They have friends in school. They are really thriving- really growing. "

Taking in family, she said, was something people just did when she was growing up. She remembered a time her family took in several young relatives who had no one else to take care of them.

"That's just the way it was," she said. "We took care of our family and helped them. It was our tradition."

Citizens of any federally-recognized tribe can become foster parents. For more information, or an application, contact (580) 272-5550.

Haskell reunion Oct. 28-30 in OKC

Haskell Alumni Association of Oklahoma invites alumni and friends to join together at The Tower Hotel, 3233 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City, October 28-30, for Haskell Indian Nations University Reunion 2016.

For hotel reservations call (405) 842-6633. The Reunion room rate is $69 with breakfast bar.

Activities for the event are:

Friday evening: Reception starting at 6 p.m., Gourd Dance, Recognition of Veterans.

Saturday morning: 10 a.m., Annual meeting for the Association. All alumni are invited to attend the annual board meeting where reports include past year activities and future plans. The National Alumni Office President, who is also a member of the Haskell Board of Regents, will report on Haskell activities.

Saturday evening: Dinner starting at 6 p.m., The program will again feature raffle drawings, auctions, and dance. Music by T-Bird Mobile Music of Norman, OK.

Sunday morning: Spiritual singing at 10 a.m.

For more information, call reunion coordinator Richard Tilden at (918) 403-9605, Email: rtpawnee@cox.net

Poblete named director of outpatient nursing at Medical Center

ADA, Okla.- Governor Bill Anoatubby has appointed nursing veteran Sherry Poblete director of outpatient nursing.

Mrs. Poblete began her career as a nurse in 1976 and has served with the tribe since 2001.

"Mrs. Poblete understands the vital role nurses play in providing effective and efficient health care," Gov. Anoatubby said. "She has the skill, experience and compassion to serve as a leader as well as a source of knowledge and inspiration for the nurses under her direction."

Mrs. Poblete oversees internal medicine, family practice, pediatrics, women's and podiatry clinic nursing staff at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada. Her team now includes 120 nurses.

"I'm honored to serve in this position," Mrs. Poblete said. "The people working here are dedicated to providing our patients with the best care possible."

Ms. Poblete's 15 years with the Chickasaw Nation are a testament to her caring, generous heart and her desire to serve others.

SHERRY POBLETE

"The way the Chickasaw Nation strives for excellence by encouraging and providing opportunities for professional and personal growth is inspiring," she said. "I feel privileged to be a part of such a wonderful organization."

Mrs. Poblete attended Oklahoma Christian College and graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Central Oklahoma.

She lives in Ada with her husband, Ed. The couple has two children.

Harley Lewis named to director post of Creative Solutions Department

ADA, Okla. - Governor Bill Anoatubby has appointed an 11-year employee of the Chickasaw Nation to the Director of Creative Solutions post.

Harley Lewis served most recently as Creative Strategist for the tribe.

"Creativity is essential to achieving our mission to enhance the quality of life of the Chickasaw people," Gov. Anoatubby said. "Mr. Lewis is a great fit for this position because he has an uncommon ability to view challenges from a unique perspective and develop creative approaches to meeting those challenges."

Mr. Lewis, 35, will manage a Creative Solutions Department that consists of illustrators, creative strategists and print production specialists.

"Creative solutions is a unique fit to the Chickasaw Nation," Mr. Lewis said. "Our approach is to foster creative solutions. We encourage creativity while helping develop 'outside-the-box thinking' to produce bigger ideas and find positive, meaningful solutions to projects."

HARLEY LEWIS

Mr. Lewis joined the tribe in September 2005. He holds a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University. He is completing a master's degree in business administration from Southern Nazarene University.

He and his wife, Nicole, have three daughters, Chloe, 7, Lennox, 2, and Rowan, two months.

Mr. Lewis enjoys spending time with his family, is an avid birdwatcher and a talented musician who plays multiple instruments. He also enjoys hunting, fly-fishing, reading and painting watercolor landscapes.

Hall of Fame nominations now being accepted

The Chickasaw Nation is currently accepting nominations for the 2017 Chickasaw Nation Hall of Fame. Nominations must be received by the Chickasaw Nation Department of Culture and Humanities by 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 9.

Nominees both living and deceased are eligible and will be considered for this prestigious honor. Nominees must have distinguished themselves in their businesses, professions, crafts or vocations, thereby bringing honor to the Chickasaw Nation, while impacting fellow Chickasaw citizens or the community on a local or national level.

Inductees must be citizens of the Chickasaw Nation or be eligible to become citizens of the Chickasaw Nation. Nominees are not required to live in Oklahoma. Inductees must commit to being present for the banquet and induction ceremonies in 2017.

A nomination form is available on the Chickasaw Nation Website. Visit www.chickasaw.net/hof. Nominations must be sent to the following address: Brielle Helm, Department of Culture and Humanities, P.O. Box 1548, Ada, OK 74871, or emailed to Brielle.Helm@Chickasaw.net.

For more information contact Brielle Helm at (580) 436-2603.

Elements of impressionism, romantism

Chickasaw artist introduces 'Plein air' painting style to students

Duncan, Oklahoma-based Chickasaw artist Gay Faulkenberry gathered with 11 students April 22 - the first sunny day after extended showers - to share her knowledge and appreciation of painting outside, in the moment, amid the natural beauty of Sulphur, Oklahoma, the peaceful valley of rippling waters.

The ground and plants had absorbed a week's worth of rain, and the season of renewal had left the town flush with vibrant green. Outside, in the rock garden on the corner of Muskogee Avenue and First Street, Ms. Faulkenberry set up her station. She positioned her easel facing an arrangement of bright, blooming flowers and squeezed oil paints onto a mirror palette.

As students observed, she first washed her canvas with a very light pink, then set into showcasing what her 35 years as a professional artist and plein air painter had taught her, one stroke at a time.

Painting "en plein air," as the French refer to it, is the act of painting in the open air or the outdoors. Ms. Faulkenberry's workshop focused on this form of visual art, a technique with a history stretching back over 200 years to artists like Claude Monet. It involves romanticism and impressionism and recently experienced a burst of popularity in the U.S.

Painting is in Ms. Faulkenberry's blood. Her grandmother, Billie Rawls, who she considered her best friend, was herself a painter. Ms. Faulkenberry's mother studied art and her father worked as a geologist, so an appreciation for nature and creating meaning were a strong part of her childhood.

While family and upbringing had primed her for the life of an outdoors artist, color was her catalyst.

"My love of color inspires me to take on one of the greatest of challenges, painting from life," Ms. Faulkenberry said. "I am driven to capture the excitement and subtle nuances of myriad reds in a poppy field, the values in a stand of golden aspens, reflected hues in a shadow, or glow of a backlit flower petal."

For the artist, color is at the heart of her art. She said this fascination was what set her down the path of an artist - a path leading across the country and abroad - and it started at a very early age.

"Color has always been something I was fascinated with, whether it was in paint or a big box of Crayons," she said. "Color became what speaks to me in nature."

Through it all, color has remained Ms. Faulkenberry's biggest inspiration.

"It's the thing that makes me stop my car and go, 'I really want to paint that,'" she said.

For a plein air painter, stopping on the side of the road to capture a vista is a possible prospect, the next painting is as much within reach as the nearest brush and easel.

Because lighting conditions, and therefore color conditions, are not stable when dealing with the natural light of the sun, most plein air paintings are completed within a handful of hours. They can happen anywhere, but require a quick eye and knack for creating detail with broader strokes.

Ms. Faulkenberry's April 22-24 weekend workshop in Sulphur, arranged and offered by the Chickasaw Nation, focused on the skills necessary to "just go out and paint." For three days, the instructor and students spent time both inside the Artesian Studio and Gallery as well as out and about exploring the natural surroundings of Sulphur.

Oklahoma artist Gay Faulkenberry inspects the subject of her plein air painting as students of her weekend workshop watch. The rock garden adjacent to the Artesian Gallery and Studios made an appropriate setting for the springtime art lesson.

The artist taught with a focus on understanding light and what it does to a subject, understanding color and how to see and mix it. Though colors are her favorite aspect of painting, Ms. Faulkenberry is quick to admit it is also one of the biggest hurdles to newcomers.

"My students quickly find out a strong painting doesn't stand on color alone," she said. "So many facets go into making a successful painting; good drawing, composition, proper values, interesting brush work and, last but not least, passion for your subject! It's a process of making them all work together."

The students included men and women, long-time artists and eager beginners looking to get a canvas wet.

Mary Ruth Barnes, the 2015 Chickasaw Dynamic Woman of the Year, attended the workshop. Mrs. Barnes, a Chickasaw artist and author, said she usually works with watercolors and acrylic paints, but signed up for the workshop to learn something new, which she said required "thinking outside the box."

Sergei Bongart, a Russian-born master artist and plein air painter known for his use of color, invited young Ms. Faulkenberry to a summer workshop he hosted in Idaho. She attended for two separate summers and went on to attend independent studies with a number of other well-known artists.

"I started painting outdoors when I took Sergei's workshop," she said. "He was a big fan of the outdoors. Sunlight and shadow are so obvious when you are outside painting. The whole lighting situation is different."

Ultimately, Ms. Faulkenberry's artistic journey with plein air painting would take her across the U.S. and abroad learning, painting, exploring and teaching. It would take her to places like Florida, Montana, California, Colorado, Vermont, Connecticut and North Carolina. It would take her on a solo adventure through France. It also brought her in contact with a group whose goal is to bring awareness to the process and beauty of plein air painting.

The Plein Air Painters of America, a group dedicated to outdoor painting, has been around since 1985. Ms. Faulkenberry served as the group's president in 2008 and 2009. The group is the "granddaddy" of the current plein air movement in the U.S.

They invented wet painting shows on Catalina Island, off the coast of California, after spending 10 days painting together. They framed and displayed their art while the paintings were still wet. Now events like this happen all over.

Ms. Faulkenberry and the Chickasaw Nation are bringing another plein air painting workshop to Sulphur in October. These plein air events are a part of a growing trend in the area, a surge of artistic opportunities.

"This workshop was a pleasure to teach with a wonderful group of enthusiastic artists," the artist said about the recent workshop. "Great weather and beautiful landscape made the weekend the perfect setting."

An assortment of other art-based events, open to the public at no charge, are scheduled for the Sulphur area soon.

For more information about these and other art events offered by the Chickasaw Nation, contact Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities at (580) 272-5520 or artistinfo@chickasaw.net.

To learn more about the artist, visit www.gayfaulkenberry.com. Anyone interested in learning about or joining the plein air painting movement should visit www.p-a-p-a.com, the Plein Air Painters of America official website.

Enville VFD equipment

Members of the Enville (OK) Volunteer Fire Department display new equipment acquired with assistance from a Chickasaw Nation donation. The equipment, known as "jaws of life," will be used to free people trapped in vehicles.

Adult art classes Sept. 17 and 24 in Sulphur

SULPHUR, Okla. - Chickasaw Nation Arts & Humanities is offering adult art classes with Chickasaw artist Mary Ruth Barnes at the ARTesian Gallery & Studios in Sulphur.

Classes and dates are:

· Saturday, Sept. 17 - Illustrating

· Saturday, Sept. 24 - Gouache Watercolor

All classes run from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Enrollment fee of $10 includes instruction and materials.

Mary Ruth Barnes is an award-winning artist. She was named 2015 Dynamic Woman of the Year by Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby. Mrs. Barnes is an editor, published author, photographer, artist and avid equestrian.

For more information, or to enroll, contact the ARTesian Gallery & Studios at (580) 622-8040.

RESOLUTIONS |

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

to the Legislative Session agenda and adopt emergency legislation, if any. The agenda for COW meetings shall follow the outline provided in the Constitution and Code including the offer to Chickasaw citizens to address the Legislature. If the time or place of the monthly meeting must be changed, notice shall be given to the public.

SECTION 16-201.5 RULES ON LEGISLATION.

B. Proposed Legislation:

~~3. Whether in Committee or at the Committee of the Whole, all Proposed Legislation may be discussed prior to any motion being made to place the Proposed Legislation on the agenda of a Session.~~

~~4~~. The Chairperson shall number and assign proposed Legislation to an appropriate Committee for further review. It shall be kept in said Committee no longer than the third Regular Session of the Legislature following its assignment to said Committee.

4~~5~~. No Legislation assigned to a Standing Committee shall be allowed to die in said Committee without an action being taken. The Committee Chair asking for a motion to place the Legislation on the agenda of a session shall be considered an "action" for the purposes of this Paragraph 4~~5~~. After such action is taken, Legislation may die for a lack of a motion or lack of a second.

5. Legislation may be withdrawn in committee by written request of the author or submitter. After legislation has been placed on a Session agenda, it may be withdrawn by majority vote of the Legislature to accept a request to withdraw.

SECTION 16-201.7 SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER ~~ON BUSINESS~~ OF THE LEGISLATURE.

A. The Special Rules of Order ~~procedures~~ outlined in this Section shall be the authority for all business conducted by the Legislature and its Committees, except as is elsewhere ~~herein~~ addressed in this Title 16. In addition, other Special Rules of Order may appear in other titles of the Chickasaw Nation Code, for example, Special Rules of Order regarding elections may be found in Title 8; Special Rules of Order for public hearings may be found in Title 10; Special Rules of Order regarding confirming gubernatorial appointments and other issues regarding the Governor may be found in Title 12; all of which are incorporated herein by this reference. ~~B.~~ In deciding matters not addressed specifically by this Title 16, Robert's Rules of Order shall be consulted as the definitive reference, as provided in Article VIII, Section 6 and Article VII, Section 12 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation.

B. Speaking and Debate.

1. Whether in Committee, or at the Committee of the Whole, all Proposed Legislation may be discussed prior to any motion being made to place the Proposed Legislation on the agenda of a Session.

2. A Legislator must be recognized by the Chairperson by raising his hand. Legislators may speak while seated. Once a Legislator has spoken on a matter, he must wait until all other Legislators have had the opportunity to speak on the matter in order to speak again. If the meeting is continued to another day, the Legislator's right to speak is renewed.

3. Each Legislator shall be allowed up to ten (10) minutes to comment on an issue. Debate must be relevant to the issues at hand. If a Legislator does not use all of his allotted time during any of his opportunities to speak in debate, the Legislator loses all of his remaining time and may not relinquish it to another speaker.

4. The Secretary of the Legislature shall act as time-keeper for debate.

5. Speakers must be courteous and never attack other Legislators or question the motives of other Legislators. In controversial issues, the discussion is focused on ideas, not personalities. Legislators must not use inflammatory statements such as "it's a lie," "it's a fraud" or "He's a liar." Profane language is also prohibited.

6. A Legislator who makes a motion cannot speak against the motion but he can vote against it. The Legislator who seconds a motion, however, can speak against the motion because the second means "Let's discuss it," not "I agree." Sometimes a Legislator seconds a motion so he can speak against it.

7. During debate, a Legislator cannot talk against a previous action that is not pending, unless one of the motions to *Rescind, Reconsider*, or *Amend something Previously Adopted* is pending; or unless the Legislator concludes his remarks with one of these motions. Legislators also have the right to conclude their debate with a higher-ranking motion than the one pending; i.e. when the Chairperson recognizes a Legislator for any legitimate purpose, the Legislator has the floor for all legitimate purposes.

8. During debate, Legislators should take care not to disturb the assembly by whispering, talking, walking across the floor, or causing other distractions. All cell phones and other electronic equipment shall be set to silent mode. A Legislator who must take a phone call shall leave the meeting room to do so. Any Legislator, including the Chairperson and Secretary of the Legislature, who ignores the rules of debate, is disruptive or is argumentative beyond reasonable bounds may be, upon motion and second and majority vote of the Legislature in attendance, removed from the meeting place, reprimanded, censured (under rules provided for in Title 16, Chapter 7), and/or referred to the Attorney General as a criminal complaint under Section 5-1505.14, Obstructing Governmental Action. The Legislator that is the subject of such a motion shall be afforded no more than five (5) minutes for rebuttal before the vote is taken. If a Legislator is removed from the meeting place, a motion, second and majority vote of the Legislature in attendance shall be required before the Legislator is allowed to return to that or any subsequent meeting of the Legislature.

9. If at any time during debate the Chairperson needs to interrupt the speaker for a ruling, provide a Point of Information or respond to a point of Parliamentary Inquiry, the Legislator shall stop speaking until the Chairperson is finished and may then resume speaking. The computation of a speaker's time shall not include such an interruption.

10. The time expended in giving a committee report shall not be counted as time allowed for debate.

11. A Legislator has no right to "explain his vote" during voting, which would be the same as debate at such time.

12. The Chairperson may declare the debate closed a) when all the Legislators have either exercised or declined their opportunity to debate, b) when all Legislators have used their allowable debate time; or c) upon recognition of a Motion to Call for the Question. In the case of a Motion to Call for the Question, the Chairperson must determine whether all germane debate has occurred even if all Legislators have not exercised their opportunity for debate. A Motion to Call for the Question requires ratification of a super majority (2/3rds of Legislators present) in order to come into effect. If the motion passes, the question is immediately voted upon.

13. Only Legislators present at a meeting or Session may vote on a question presented. No provision shall allow voting on a question by phone, mail or proxy.

14. It shall be a breach of ethics for a Legislator to change, or to cause to be changed, any previous vote announced by the Chairperson.

15. If a situation is presented that is not enumerated herein, and the situation has been presented before and was treated in a manner that is inconsistent with Robert's Rules of Order, then the Legislature may, upon motion, second and majority vote of the Legislature that is present, suspend the rules to follow the precedent. Otherwise, Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed as provided by the Chickasaw Constitution.

C. Special Rules of Order for Regular, Additional Regular and Special Sessions.

1. The Chairperson shall call the Regular, Additional Regular or Special Session ~~meeting~~ to order.

2. The Recording Secretary shall call roll.

3. A Member of the Legislature or visitor designated by the Chairperson may give an invocation.

4. The Minutes of the last session shall be provided prior to the next Regular Session. The Chairperson shall call for amendments or approval of the minutes as presented. All proposed amendments shall be voted upon. The minutes shall be approved by roll call vote. ~~of the Legislature may be read by the Secretary of the Legislature.~~

5. The Chairperson shall address Unfinished Business. Unfinished Business shall contain all Resolutions that have been tabled or postponed during the reports of Committees. Placing Legislation on the table or postponing Legislation in a Session shall not extend the time limited described in Paragraph 16-201.5.B.4.

6. The Chairperson shall address Reports of Committees:

a. The Committee Chairs of the Committees which have legislation to present on the agenda shall present the reports of their respective committees, as an official statement, addressed to the Chairperson, of action taken, information obtained, or action recommended regarding all proposed Legislation that appears on the agenda. Committee Chairs may make or second a motion.

b. If, for any reason, the Committee Chair of a Committee cannot or chooses not to give the report, the Committee Chair of said Committee, or in his absence the Chairperson shall designate another member of said Committee to give the report.

c. The Chairperson shall not enter into debate of an issue until he has relinquished the Chair to the Secretary. While the Secretary holds the chair, he may not enter into debate on the issue, had participated in the debate of the issue, then the Secretary shall no longer participate in debate of the issue until the Chairperson has returned to the Chair. The Chairperson may answer a specific and/or clarification question without it being considered debate.

7. The members of the Legislature shall receive a copy of the Governor's/Executive Department's written report. Should the Governor desire to address the Legislature, he shall be granted time to do so.

8. The Chairperson shall address New Business:

a. Should the Governor desire to address the Legislature, he shall be granted time to do so.

b~~a~~. "Comments from Citizens," as provided by Article VIII, Section 4, of the Constitution, at the discretion of the Chairperson, may be heard under the agenda item designated "New Business."

Executed in regular session of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature, meeting at Ada, Oklahoma, on August 19, 2016, by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

Explanation: This resolution approves amendments to the rules of the Chickasaw Tribal Legislature. The amendments are respectful of and define the use of Robert's Rules of Order as provided by the Chickasaw Constitution.

Presented By: Legislative Committee

OBITUARIES

Jonny Hicks

Jonny Hicks passed in the comfort of her home surrounded by loved ones on July 29, 2016.

She loved and was loved by many. Jonny was a proud Chickasaw citizen and instilled in her family the passion she held for her tribe.

She is survived by her mother, Alma Stacy; a son, Wayne Hicks; a daughter, Tracey Hicks; four grandchildren, Alicia Hicks, Melanie Hicks, Jacob Hicks, and Kaden Hicks; two great-grandsons Jean-Luc and Conor Coleman; and her very loved dog, Sparky.

It was her compassion that led her to lead a life of service. Service to her state, her family, her friends, and even strangers she'd just met. In 10 years working for the state of Texas, among many other things, she assisted the elderly through her work with Adult Protective Services. She also worked with Child Protective Services to help kids living in the foster system transition to college.

During her time in Chickasaw country, she worked tirelessly with the children in Head Start. Mother, sister, aunt, niece, daughter – she was all of these things and more.

Po Hollo Li, Jonny, Jon, Chickie, Nanny, Stinky, Sister, Mama - We will see you again.

James Edward Hampton

James Edward Hampton was born April 20, 1941 at Talihina, Okla. He died December 28, 2015 in Tulsa, Okla.

Mr. Hampton was preceded in death by his mother Doris Inez Ned (Hampton); his father Edmond Green Wood Hampton; and his ex-wife Gloria (Ferrari) Hampton, the mother of his surviving children, James Edward Hampton Jr. (Becky), of Las Cruces N.M.; Tina Doris Yost (Neil), of Hereford, Ariz.; Tonia Atzbach (Rick), of Huachuca City, Ariz.; Darlene Hampton; David Hampton, of Palm Desert, Calif; his mother (Vera Pardo); nine grandchildren, Brandon, Amanda, Jerry, Jennifer, Nadine, Raymond, Bobby, Nickolas, Christen; and five great-grandchildren, Andrew, Addalaide, Arabella, Evangeline, and Dakota. He also leaves behind his loving brothers Don Hampton (Sharon), of Las Vegas, Dennis Crawford (Beverly), of Newkirk, Okla.; a sister, Lynn Bebout; and countless aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He never met a stranger. Jim was a loving, caring and forgiving man who lived his life by the example of his "Great Spirit." He was proud of his Hampton and Indian heritage. He passed his love of the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations on to his children. Two of his daughters and a grandson are proud citizens of the Chickasaw Nation. Jim Hampton will be dearly missed by everyone who knew him. Knowing Jim was a blessing for he loved life and treasured every day as a gift.

Daughter's Memorial Poem

He's gone now, what more can I say

He was here then but he's gone today

The greatest inspiration to me, his love will last

But he's gone now, he's passed.

His love was forever, he'll always care

But he's gone now, his room is bare

He taught me so much, his lessons remain

But he's gone now and what's left is too much pain.

I'm angry inside, my heart is mush

Why did he leave me, in such a big rush

Did he want to go, did he want to stay

I can't figure out why it ended this way.

He's gone now, there's more I can say

But he's no longer here, and it still hurts today

His inspiration remains, his love intact

And no matter how hard I wish it, I can't bring him back.

To my dad with all my love Tina

Tommy Keel

Graveside services for Tommy Keel, 66, of Tishomingo, Oklaoma, were June 27, 2016 at Fillmore Cemetery in Fillmore, Okla., with Brother Randy Wade officiating. Military honors were provided by The Chickasaw Nation Honor Guard.

Mr. Keel passed away June 23, 2016 at his home.

Mr. Keel was born on Nov. 28, 1949 in Fillmore to Edmond Freeman Keel and Hilda Bessie (Murphy) Keel. He graduated from Tishomingo High School in 1968 and then served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam conflict. He worked many years as a stone mason and electrician until ill health required him to retire. He was very proud of his Chickasaw heritage.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Hattie Chastain and Ilene Davis; and two brothers, J. B. Keel and Jerry Keel.

He is survived by a daughter, Buffy Way and husband Danny and their children, Paige, Jaide and Blane, all of Wilson, Okla.; four brothers, Don Keel, of Tishomingo; Jefferson Keel and wife Carol, of Sulphur, Okla.; Dale Keel and wife Kathy, of Albuquerque, N.M., and Danny Keel, of Paducah, Ky.; three sisters, Kathy Bethune, of Ada, Okla., Virginia Sherwood and husband Jess, of Madill, Okla., and Marie Miller, of Velma, Okla.; numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.

Online condolences may be made at clarkfuneralservice.net

Raymond Van Colley

Raymond Van Colley, age 64, of Hot Springs, Ark., died July 31, 2016.

Mr. Colley was born on Sept. 5, 1951 in Fullerton, Calif., and raised in Brea, Calif., the son of Augusta Colley and Rose Mary Gangarz Colley. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Carol Rose Colley; and his parents.

Mr. Colley retired from Chevron Oil Corporation. He was a proud former deputy of the Orange County Sheriff's Department in California. Raymond also owned a farm in Tishomingo, Okla., where he enjoyed raising cattle and poultry.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Colley, of Hot Springs; a son, Gustin Ray Colley, of Norman, Okla.; a daughter, Marci Rae Stern, of California; a brother, Edward William Colley, of Ridgecrest, Calif.; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the direction of Davis-Smith Funeral Home, Hot Springs.

Guest registry is at www.davis-smith.com.

Pauline Alexander

Services for Pauline Alexander, 82, of Ada, Okla., were Aug. 16, 2016 at Criswell Funeral Home Chapel, Revs. Gene Williams and Osborne Roberts officiated. Burial followed in Allen Cemetery.

Mrs. Alexander passed away Friday, August 12, 2016 at an Ada hospital. She was born October 15, 1933 in the Corine Community, Pushmataha County, Oklahoma to Houston Lee and Ennie Hobson Fobb. She graduated from Sequoyah High School near Tahlequah and was also a cosmetology school graduate.

She married Cody Alexander March 1, 1954 in Oklahoma City. He preceded her in death March 2, 1986. Mrs. Alexander was a beautician and retired from Western Electric in Oklahoma City after several years. She later worked in housekeeping at Valley View Regional Hospital in Ada until retiring. Mrs. Alexander attended Mitchell Memorial United Methodist Church in Ada.

Survivors include three sons, Haskell Alexander and his wife Susan, of Ada, Jeff Alexander of Dallas, Texas, and Cody Alexander, of Ada; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and a brother, Houston Lee Fobb.

Bearers were her grandsons Brian Alexander, Jordan Alexander, Warren Alexander, Jared Alexander and Michael Alexander, and a relative, James Crossley.

Obituaries may be viewed and online condolences sent to criswellfh.com.

Edith Louise Maytubby Platt

Edith Louise Maytubby Platt, 93, passed away August 1, 2016. She was born Sept. 30, 1922 in Mill Creek, Okla., to Lymon and Nita (Milliken) Maytubby.

She was a graduate of Capitol Hill High School where she played basketball for the Chieftains. She was married to Leonard Platt, of Moore, Okla., who was the owner and operator of L.F. Platt Lumber Company.

Mrs. Platt was very athletic and enjoyed playing golf. She played golf all over the country but her favorite place to play was the Lakeside Golf Course on Eastern. She enjoyed watching baseball and her favorite team was the Texas Rangers. She also enjoyed playing cards and eating bonbons with her girlfriends. She was a Christian woman and read her Bible every day. Edith was a very generous and giving person.

Her greatest love was spending time with her family.

Edith is survived by her cousin Joe and his wife Marlene; a niece, Jennifer; and a host of cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, L.F. Platt and her son, Lynn. Graveside services were Friday, August 5, 2016 at the Moore City Cemetery. Services are under the direction of John Ireland Funeral Home.

Elizabeth Carol 'Liz' Imotichey

Funeral services for Elizabeth Carol "Liz" Imotichey, 65, of Connerville, Okla., were July 19, 2016 at the Herb Clark Memorial Chapel in Tishomingo with Brother Allen Beck officiating. Interment followed in the Seeley Cemetery, north of Connerville. Ms. Imotichey passed away on July 14, 2016 at a Tishomingo hospital.

Liz was born February 14, 1951 in Talihina, Okla., to Thurston Shown and Wanda Faye (Shown) Imotichey. She attended Tishomingo Schools and finished high school here. She lived in Dallas, Texas for a few years and worked for Sherwin-Williams. Upon returning to this area, she worked at Carl Albert Hospital in Ada, Okla., in the housekeeping department. Liz was an accomplished softball player and played on the All-Indian Ladies team.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Joe and Jason Imotichey.

Liz is survived by a daughter, JaDean Factor, and her children, Scout, Teigon and Easton, of Connerville; two brothers, Tony Poe and wife Celease, of Pontotoc, Okla., and Tim Poe and wife Cindy, of Ada; three sisters, Gingie Lamoni and husband Dean, of Ada, and Tammy and Judy Poe, both of Connerville; and numerous other relatives.

Pallbearers were James Poe, Paul Wilson, Sr., Jason Lamoni, Watson Wagon, Allen Poe and Paul Wilson, Jr. Honorary bearers were Becky Easterling, Emma McCloud, Jonathan Lamoni, Tommie Postoak, Tim Poe, Gary Paul Poe, Mark Poe, Jimmy Joe Thomas, Dean Lamoni and Gerald Hart.

Sharron Ann McGehee

Services for Sharron Ann McGehee, of Marietta, Okla., were August 8, 2016 at the Marietta Church of Christ with Bro. Tony Lalli and Bro. Gary Labeth officiating. Interment followed in Lakeview Cemetery, Marietta, under the direction of Flanagan-Watts Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Sharron was born at Pike, Okla., July 15, 1948, the daughter of Ben and Ruby McKee Alexander. She passed away Thursday, August 4, at her home at the age of 68.

A resident of Love County all of her life, Sharron attended school at Courtney and Burneyville and graduated from Turner High School with the Class of 1966. She married Preston L. McGehee on May 20, 1966 in Love County. Sharron was a very active member of the Marietta FFA Booster Club for a number of years. She enjoyed spending time with her family, especially watching her grandchildren play sports. Her hobbies included reading, scrapbooking, and crafts. Sharron was a member of the Marietta Church of Christ and also a very proud member of the Chickasaw tribe.

Preceding her in death were her parents; a sister, Yvonne Alexander; and a brother, L.B. Alexander.

She is survived by her husband, Preston Lloyd McGehee, of the home; two sons and daughters-in-law, Preston Harold and Kim McGehee and Gregg and Shawna McGehee, of Marietta; a sister, Lavern Turner, of Wilson, Okla.; seven grandchildren, Alex McGehee, Colton McGehee and wife Nykki, Garrett McGehee, Briggom McGehee, Sarah McGehee, Caleb McGehee, and Claire McGehee; a great-granddaughter, Annistyn McGehee; a brother-in-law, F.A. "Butch" Shellenberger and wife Wanda, of Ardmore, Okla.; two sisters-in-law, Janet Hoefar Foster, of Justin, Texas, and Sharon Shellenberger of Plano, Texas; and many special nieces, nephews, cousins and dear lifelong friends.

Serving as casket bearers were grandsons Preston "Alex" McGehee, John "Colton" McGehee, Garrett McGehee, Briggom McGehee, and Caleb McGehee, and granddaughter, Sarah McGehee. Honorary bearers were Claire McGehee, Annistyn McGehee, Dr. Tom O'Connor, Elizabeth Eddows, Odessa Gouker, and the staff of Mercy Health Love County.

Alvin Laxton, Jr.

Graveside funeral services for Alvin Laxton, Jr. of Sulphur, were Aug. 3, 2016 at Oaklawn Cemetery in Sulphur, Okla., with Pastor Dick Terry officiating.

Mr. Laxton was born June 18, 1931 in Burr Valley, OK (Pontotoc County) to the late Alvin, Sr. & Jessie Cleo (Chapman) Laxton. He passed away July 30, 2016 in Davis, Okla., at the age of 85 years, 1 month and 12 days.

Alvin and Katherine Sallada were married on November 24, 1973 in Bedford, Penn.

Alvin began working in the oil field in 1947 in Ada, Okla. He started out as a roughneck and eventually worked his way to assistant drilling superintendent. Alvin drilled in 11 different states throughout his career. He retired in 1993 and that lasted one year before he was needed to return to the industry as a consultant for numerous oil companies, later retiring again in 2014.

Alvin spent most of his career in the Gulf region and returned to Oklahoma in 2011. His hobbies included fishing, gardening and planting fruit trees. Alvin was a Chickasaw Nation elder.

He is survived by his wife, Katherine; daughter, Alta Jean Spears, of Spring Hill, La.; four sons, Gerry Laxton and wife Wanda and Michael Laxton and wife Kathy, of Sulphur, Jimmy Laxton, of Longview, Texas, and Jason Laxton and wife Christie, of Sulphur; three brothers, Charlie Laxton and wife Claudine, of Spearman, Texas, Lewis Laxton and wife Sheila, of Vanoss, Okla., and Stanley Laxton, of Azle, Texas; 16 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and along several nieces & nephews.

Others preceding him in death include his parents; a daughter, Charlotte Robertson; a son, Jerry Lee Laxton; and three brothers, Floyd, John and Don Laxton.

On line condolences may be offered at halesfuneralhomes.com.

Floyd James Powell

Floyd James Powell was born May 21, 1949, along with his twin brother Lloyd. They were born in a lighthouse in San Rafael, Calif., to parents Leo and Vela Powell. Floyd Powell died July 5, 2016.

Floyd had an older brother named Gerald, now deceased, and a younger brother named Johnny.

Mr. Powell served in the U.S. Navy from December 8, 1967 to October 1, 1969. He received an honorable discharge but stayed in the Reserves until December 7, 1973. During his time in the Navy he was stationed on Midway Island, halfway between Hawaii and Japan.

Floyd and Cindy Allred wrote each other constantly while he was in the service and he found ways to come home to visit whenever he could.

Floyd and Cindy remained boyfriend and girlfriend for the next five years, but it seemed they were not meant to be together yet because they ended up going their separate ways.

Floyd married Patti Witconis and in 1977 they had twin girls, Dorey and Holly. During these years Floyd could often be found at Placerville, Chico and West Capital Speedway racing stock, sprint and bomber race cars.

In 1979 circumstances changed and Floyd and Cindy found their way back to each other. On September 8, 1982, Floyd married his childhood sweetheart, Cindy Allred. Together they had a daughter, Lorie, in December 1983 and a son, Adam, in June 1986.

Floyd worked for Sutter General Hospital, American United Road Service, Bendix Mobile Home Manufacturing, Sears Truck Tire Service, Laura Scudders and Regional Transit. For a few years he owned and operated River City Truck Tire Service.

Some of the titles he held over the years were peace officer, truck tire installer, service technician, light rail security officer and light rail operator.

He had a heart of gold and would give anyone the shirt off his back if they needed it. If a car broke down or friends needed help or a tow, they always knew Floyd would come help them. Floyd had many friends, too many to name.

Floyd loved Cindy, his children and grandchildren more than life itself. He would have done anything to protect them. He was proud of his children and what they had accomplished. In recent years, he especially loved spending time with his grandchildren, Aluna, Aurora, Ari, Sean, and Leonidas, and giving them things they shouldn't have, like candy. Floyd and Cindy spent many days sitting at McDonalds Play Place or at a park letting the kids climb and play. Floyd would sit and work in Word Search books while Cindy would watch the kids.

On June 12, 2015, Floyd suffered a major stroke. He fought long and hard to recover and although he was able to get rid of the tracheotomy, feeding tube and catheter, he never fully recovered. He put up a gallant fight to stay with us, but ultimately gave in to the inevitable.

On July 5, 2016, Floyd quietly and peacefully passed while Cindy was at his side holding his hand.

Floyd was the grandson of Samuel Powell, original Dawes Roll enrollee. He was very proud of his Chickasaw heritage.

Jessie Lee Sandefur

Jessie Lee Sandefur, 86, of Madill, Okla., passed away March 30, 2016 at the Texoma Medical Center in Denison, Texas.

She was born on Dec. 24, 1929 in Alex, Okla., to John Martin Richardson and Julia Underwood Richardson. Jessie was raised in Alex and Stonewall, Oklahoma before moving to Madill in 1949. She married Cleo Martin Sandefur April 5, 1949 in Grayson County, Texas. He preceded her in death on March 30, 2011.

She received her master's degree in Education from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She worked as an elementary teacher for 20 years and had received the Teacher of the Year award. Jessie was a member of the EA, NEA and was president and secretary of the PTA. She was also the President, District Director and on the State Finance Board for the local B&PW.

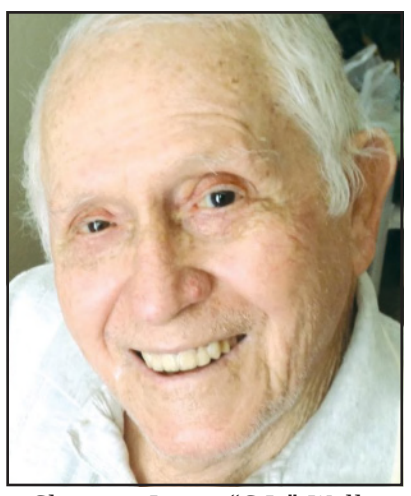
Jessie was a very active member of the Church of the Nazarene where she served on the board and as church secretary and treasurer. She also taught Sunday school, sang in the choir and received a Distinguished Service Award for church service. Jessie was a member of the Retired Educator's Association, VIP member Award Oyohoma where she served as president, vice President and secretary. She also was a member of the Chickasaw Council of Elders and Co-chairman of the Chickasaw Senior Nutrition site where she served as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

Jessie enjoyed reading, gardening and loved her church.

She is survived by two sons, Gary Sandefur and wife Kathy, of Stillwater, Okla., and Richard Sandefur and wife Cattie, of Norman, Okla.; a brother, Johnny Dale Richardson, of Ada, Okla.; a sister, Mary Jo Byrd, of Stonewall, Okla.; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Jessie was preceded in death by her parents, husband, a brother, LD Richardson, and a sister, Addie Bea Brownen.

Clarence Leroy 'C.L.' Wallace



Clarence Leroy "C.L." Wallace was born to George and Susie (Goins) Wallace Sept. 23, 1928 in Purcell, Okla. His mother was an original enrollee on the Dawes Commission Rolls.

Mr. Wallace passed away June 18, 2016 in Norman, Okla., at 87 years of age. He came from a large family with five sisters and six brothers. He grew up in the Purcell area and then moved to Oklahoma City when he was a teenager to live with his oldest sister, Ella. He graduated from Capitol Hill High School.

Clarence married Patty Ozment in 1948 and the couple had four children. He later married Chiquita Rogers on May 18, 1990.

Always a hard-working man, Mr. Wallace began working for a brick mason during the day and worked nights for the Santa Fe Railroad in Oklahoma City. He went on to become one of the best brick masons around and started his own construction company where he taught a multitude of other men the trade. He later went on to become a homebuilder in the South Oklahoma City and Moore area.

Mr. Wallace served in the Oklahoma Air National Guard and was stationed in Alexandria, Va., and Ft. Polk, La. He lived a very full and active life, and enjoyed taking his family to the lake, snow skiing, and attending University of Oklahoma football and basketball games.

Clarence was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters, Ella Ruth Hall, Lula Wilkerson, Velda Graham; and five brothers, Kenneth Wallace, L.V. Wallace, George Wallace Jr., Tracy Wallace, and Tommy Wallace.

He is survived by his wife, Chiquita Wallace of Dallas, Texas; three sons, Clarence Leroy Wallace, Jr. and his wife Teresa, of Pensacola, Fla., Leslie Wallace and his wife Barbara, of Bayfield, Colo., Larry Wallace and his wife Jenny, of Pauls Valley, Okla.; a daughter, Linda Weeks and her husband Charles, of Norman, Okla.; a brother, Bob Wallace, of Vista, Calif.; two sisters, Wanda Farrow and Shirley Stark, of Purcell; and lifelong friend and mother of his children, Patty Lawson, of Norman, Okla.

He is also survived by his stepchildren, John Pat Blanchard and his wife Melissa, of Brentwood, Calif., and Jackie Blanchard of Dallas. Other survivors include five grandchildren, Mitch Wallace, Evan English, Libby Griffith, John English and Austin Wallace; and five great-grandchildren, Mason Reddell, Tanner Wallace, Kyan Griffith, Bowen Barnes and Knightly Griffith.

A celebration of Clarence's life will be conducted on his birthday, September 23, 2016 at 3 p.m. at the farm where he was born, which was his mother's allotment land located at 220th & Sooner Avenue, Purcell. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

J. T. Underwood

J.T. Underwood passed away July 17, 2016 in Pickett, Okla., at the age of 81. J.T. was born in Anadarko, Okla., to Hagen and Trudy (Lyda) Underwood, April 21, 1935.

J.T. worked in construction with the Union for many years. He had lived in the Ada-Pickett area his entire life. He enjoyed reading his Bible, and spending time with his great nieces and nephews.

He is survived by a brother, Harold Underwood, of Ada, Okla.; a sister, Doane Balthrop, of Ada; four great nephews, Gary Underwood, Jamie Dunnigan, Cody and Dakota Hall; a great niece, Tamara Underwood; two nephews, Tim Underwood and Steve Dunnigan; a great-great nephew, Hayden Hall; and a host of other nieces and nephews.

J.T. was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, a sister, grandmother and numerous other family members.

Funeral services were July 22, 2016 at Smith-Phillips Funeral Home Chapel with Minister Floyd Kaiser officiating. Interment followed in Rosedale Cemetery.

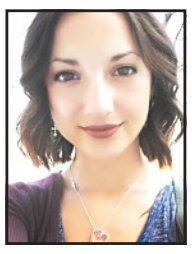
Online quest book and condolences are available at www.phillipsfuneralservice.com.

Chickasaw Foundation Scholarship Recipients 2016-2017

Chickasaw Foundation scholarship recipients from across the country attended at the 13th annual Chickasaw Foundation Scholarship Reception, Tuesday, Aug. 9, at the McSwain Theatre in Ada.

At the reception recipients were recognized in a PowerPoint presentation and presented with a scholarship award. A reception followed the ceremony. Music was provided by Chickasaw citizen, Johnothan Bomboy.

For more information about scholarship opportunities, visit www.chickasawfoundation.org.



MELISSA ELLIS

Bank2 Banking Scholarship - In Memory of Mr. Robert Walton- Ms. Melissa Ellis is a sophomore at the East Central University majoring in accounting.

NATHAN COOK

Pearl Carter Scott Aviation Scholarship - Mr. Nathan Cook is a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma majoring in aerospace engineering.

HALEY WHITE

Lillian Fowler Memorial Scholarship - Ms. Haley White is a sophomore at East Central University majoring in nursing.

ZACHARY GARCIA

Mary K. Moreland & Daniel T. Jenks Scholarship - Mr. Zachary Garcia is a senior at East Central University majoring in vocal music education.

SHELBY SMITH

Colbert Scholarship - Ms. Shelby Smith is a freshman at East Central University majoring in nursing.

KAITLIN BOLIN

Bank2 Ta-ossaa-asha' Scholarship - Ms. Kaitlin Bolin is a freshman at Southeastern Oklahoma State University majoring in accounting.

JESSE FACTOR

Ataloa Memorial Scholarship - Mr. Jesse Factor is a freshman at the University of Arizona majoring in music.

BROCK BOLDING

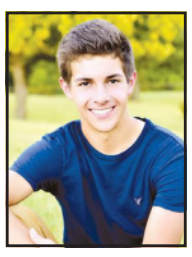
The Chickasaw Nation Ada Wellness Program Scholarship – Mr. Brock Bolding is a freshman at the University of Central Oklahoma majoring in kinesiology.

J. MARCUM

Mooniene Ogee Memorial Scholarship - Ms. J. Marcum is a sophomore at Oklahoma State University majoring in special education – elementary education.

CALEB SCOTT

Donald D. and J. Wenonah Gunning Memorial Scholarship - Mr. Caleb Scott is a freshman at Southern Nazarene University majoring in criminal justice.



DANIEL CARPENTER

Bank2 Ta-ossaa-asha' Scholarship – Mr. Daniel Carpenter is a freshman at the University of Oklahoma majoring in economics with a minor in political science within the School of Business.

SAMANTHA PERRY

Chickasaw Foundation Fine Arts Scholarship - Ms. Samantha Perry is a freshman at the University of Oklahoma majoring art history.

PHOEBE MITCHELL

Jess Green Memorial Law Scholarship- Ms. Phoebe Mitchell is a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma majoring in law.

BRITANY LOFTON

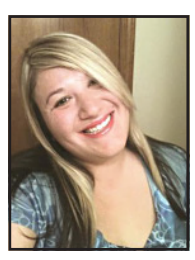
Overton M. "Buck" Cheadle Memorial Scholarship - Ms. Britany Lofton is a freshman at East Central University majoring in mathematics.

HEATHER HALL

The Hill Group Scholarship - Ms. Heather Hall is a sophomore at Rose State College majoring in paralegal studies.

ANNAH BAYKAL

Homer "Dee" Wells Memorial Scholarship - Ms. Annah Baykal is a senior at the University of Kentucky majoring in chemical engineering.



AUTUMN GORRELL

Judicial Scholarship – Law Student Scholarship - Ms. Autumn Gorrell is a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma College of Law pursuing a masters of legal studies.

JADEL HIGDON

Patricia (Trisha) Fowler Hays and Phillip Gregory (Greg) Hays Educational Scholarship - Mr. Jadel Higdon is a freshman at Cameron University majoring in education.

ADDISON KLIEWER

The Hill Group Scholarship - Ms. Addison Kliewer is a freshman at the University of Oklahoma majoring in journalism.

RANDII STEWART

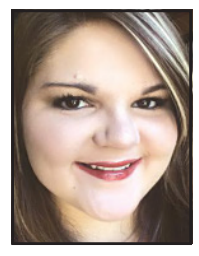
Bank2 Ta-ossaa-asha' Scholarship - Ms. Randii Stewart is a senior at Oklahoma State University majoring in accounting & management.

HAYLEE HUMPHRIES

The Chickasaw Nation Lighthorse Scholarship – In Memory of Special Agent Patrick Flickinger - Ms. Haylee Humphries is a sophomore at Southeastern Oklahoma State University majoring in criminal justice.

WILLIAM BELVIN

Mitch Sperry Memorial Law Scholarship - Mr. William Belvin is a graduate student at the University of Alabama School of Law pursuing a masters of law degree in taxation.



KOURTNEY GREENWOOD

Pauline Walker Memorial Scholarship - Ms. Kourtney Greenwood is a junior at East Central University majoring in biology.

ANITA HUDSON

Ithana (Education) Scholarship - Ms. Anita Hudson is a freshman at Redlands Community College majoring in nursing.

JOHNNA HURT

David & Carolyn Nimmo Graduate Business Scholarship - Ms. Johnna Hurt is a graduate student at Southeastern Oklahoma State University majoring in business administration.

ASHLYN VELASQUEZ

Ann Eubank Health Scholarship - Ms. Ashlyn Velasquez is a junior at Oklahoma Christian University majoring in nursing.

ASHLEE SOLICE

Bill Fryrear Memorial Scholarship - Ms. Ashlee Solice is a freshman at the University of North Texas majoring in art history.

KATELYNN HUMPHRIES

Vinnie May Humes Memorial Scholarship - Ms. Katelynn Humphries is a graduate student at Southeastern Oklahoma State University majoring in school administration.

KADEN KENNEDY

Ithana (Education) Scholarship - Mr. Kaden Kennedy is a freshmen at Oklahoma State University majoring in sports medicine.

SHANIA HUMPHREY

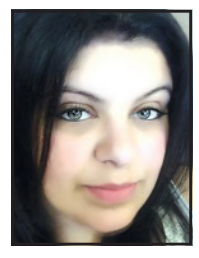
Mitch Musgrove Memorial Scholarship - Ms. Shania Humphrey is a junior at East Central University majoring in business administration.

ISAAC LILL

Chickasaw Foundation Health Professions Scholarship - Mr. Isaac Lill is a junior at Baylor University majoring in biochemistry.

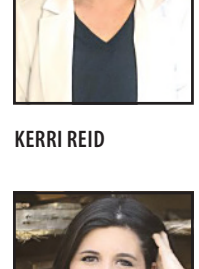
RANCE GILLIAM

Colbert "Bud" Baker Scholarship - Mr. Rance Gilliam is a senior at the University of Oklahoma majoring in Native American Studies.



TAYLOR POLSON

Wilson J. Brown Memorial Scholarship - Ms. Taylor Polson is a junior at East Central University majoring in Native American Studies.



PAIGE DEARRINGTON

James Michael "Mike" Dunn Memorial Scholarship - Ms. Paige Dearrington is a freshman at the University of Tulsa majoring in biochemistry.

MONA HUTCHINSON

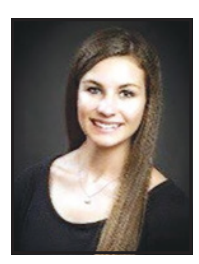
Native American Fund Advisors Scholarship - Ms. Mona Hutchinson is a graduate student at Portland State University pursuing a masters of science in financial analysis.

TAMMY CHANDLER

Division on Aging - Ms. Tammy Chandler is a senior at East Central University majoring in nursing.

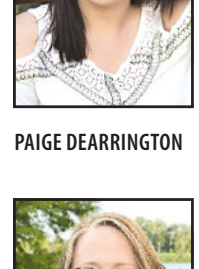
ALEXIS WALKER

Colbert "Bud" Baker Scholarship - Ms. Alexis Walker is a junior at East Central University majoring in elementary education.



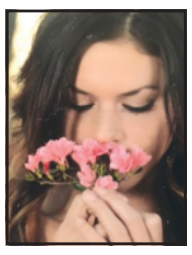
LAUREN HOLCOMB

Chickasaw Foundation Nonprofit Management Scholarship - Lauren Holcomb is a senior at Auburn University majoring in nutrition and minoring in Nonprofit Leadership and Management.



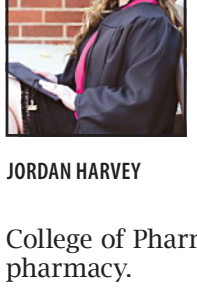
SYDNEY JOE

James Michael "Mike" Dunn Memorial Scholarship - Ms. Sydney Joe is a freshman at the University of Central Oklahoma majoring in counseling.



SHA INGRAM

Stacie Lynn Hays Memorial Scholarship - Ms. Sha Ingram is a sophomore at Oklahoma City University majoring in business administration.



JORDAN HARVEY

Edward L. Kruger Memorial Ittish Aaisha Scholarship - Mrs. Jordan Harvey is a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College of Pharmacy majoring in pharmacy.

KELSEY WELLS

Governor Emeritus Overton James Memorial Scholarship - Ms. Kelsey Wells is a sophomore at the University of Houston majoring in music education.

RALEY RUSSELL

Irene C. Howard Memorial Scholarship - Ms. Raley Russell is a sophomore at Tarrant County College majoring in science.

PAYTON WHITEHEAD

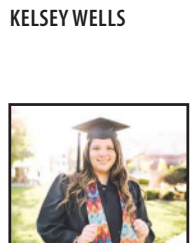
Janet Shaley James Memorial Scholarship - Mr. Payton Whitehead is a junior at Southeastern Oklahoma State University majoring in chemistry and biology.

STEVEN ANDERSON

John Bennett Herrington Scholarship - Mr. Steven Anderson is a junior at Oklahoma State University majoring in aerospace administration and operations.

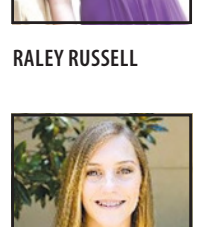
BARRETT MORRIS

Janie Hardwick Benson Memorial Scholarship - Mr. Barrett Morris is a freshman at Murray State College majoring in nursing.



CATIE HAMILTON

Lula Bynum Bourland Memorial Scholarship - Ms. Catie Hamilton is a graduate student at Southeastern Oklahoma State University majoring in Native American Leadership.



RHYANN CASE

Chickasaw Foundation General Purpose Education Scholarship – Ms. Rhyann Case is a freshman at Seminole State College majoring in health science.

BLAKE BARNES

Robert L. Walton Memorial Scholarship - Ms. Blake Barnes is a freshman at the University of Arkansas majoring in biology.

TAYLOR TALIAFERRO

The Chickasaw Nation Division of Social Services General Educational Scholarship - Ms. Taylor Taliaferro is a freshman at the University of Central Oklahoma majoring in biology.

SARA MILLER

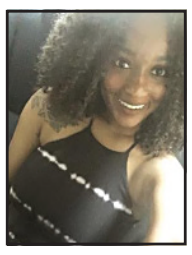
Wesley D. Brantley, Jr. Scholarship - Ms. Sara Miller is a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma majoring in human relations.

TYLER BOEHM

Chickasaw Foundation Grants - Mr. Tyler Boehm is a freshman at Baylor University majoring in pre-optometry.

JACOB CARMEN

Chickasaw Foundation Grants - Mr. Jacob Carmen is a junior at the University of Oklahoma majoring in health and exercise science/pre dietetics.



KAITLYN DOUGLAS

Chickasaw Foundation Grants - Ms. Kaitlyn Douglas is a sophomore at East Central University majoring in nursing.

DANIELLE FIXICO

Chickasaw Foundation Grants - Ms. Danielle Fixico is a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma majoring in premed.

RILEY FREEMAN

Chickasaw Foundation Grants - Ms. Riley Freeman is a freshman at the University of Texas majoring in biochemistry.

CLOVIS HAMILTON

Chickasaw Foundation Grants - Mr. Clovis Hamilton is a graduate student at Southeastern Oklahoma State University majoring in Native American Leadership.

DYLAN HARDEN

Chickasaw Foundation Grants - Mr. Dylan Harden a freshman at Oklahoma State University majoring in mechanical engineering.

LOGAN HISAW

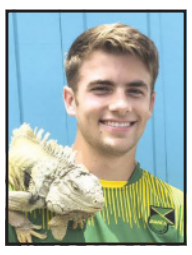
Chickasaw Foundation Grants - Ms. Logan Hisaw is a freshman at East Central University majoring in nursing.

RACHEL HOWARD

Chickasaw Foundation Grants - Ms. Rachel Howard is a graduate student at East Central University majoring in human services counseling.

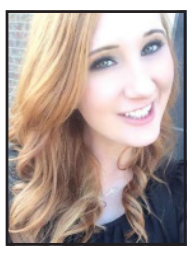
ABIGAIL KLIEWER

Chickasaw Foundation Grants - Ms. Abigail Kliewer is a sophomore at Texas Christian University majoring in biology.



AUSTIN MEFFORD

Chickasaw Foundation Grants - Mr. Austin Mefford is a junior at Oklahoma State University majoring in physiology.



MERCEDES ELMORE

Chickasaw Foundation Grants - Ms. Mercedes Elmore is a senior at Oklahoma State University majoring in human development and family services.

KATHERINE SHACKLEFORD

Chickasaw Foundation Grants - Ms. Katherine Shackleford is a sophomore at Redlands Community College majoring in nursing.

JENA SMITH

Chickasaw Foundation Grants - Ms. Jena Smith is a freshman at the University of Kansas majoring in occupational therapy.

QUINN THOMPSON

Chickasaw Foundation Grants - Mr. Quinn Thompson is a senior at the Savannah College of Art & Design majoring in visual effects.

MADISON WILSON

Chickasaw Foundation Grants - Ms. Madison Wilson is a sophomore at East Central University majoring in human services counseling.

ERICA HERMAN

Computercraft Corporation Scholarship - Ms. Erica Herman is a junior at Oklahoma City University majoring in cell and molecular biology.

RYAN SMITH

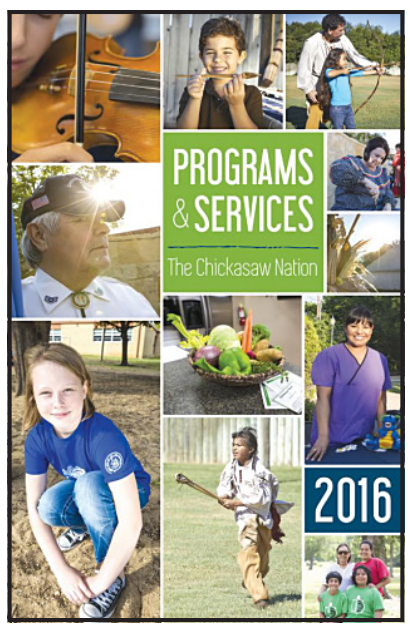
Computercraft Corporation Scholarship - Mr. Ryan Smith is a freshman at East Central University majoring in biology.

BRENT BOSTON

Native Americans Transforming Visions (NATV) Scholarship - Mr. Brent Boston is a freshman at the University of Arkansas, Ft. Smith, majoring in business administration.

ADONIS FOX

Native Americans Transforming Visions (NATV) Scholarship - Mr. Adonis Fox is a freshman at the University of Arkansas, Ft. Smith, majoring in business.



'Tower of the Rising Sun'

Chickasaw singer, songwriters up for awards for 'Te Ata' recording

ADA, Okla. – Two days.

It was all the time Chickasaw songstress Tabitha Fair could spare.

The famed New York City vocalist would record "Toward the Rising Sun" one day; film the song's video theme the next, then hop a flight in Tulsa to rejoin country music mega-hit entertainers Rascal Flatts, who hired her to perform lead and harmony vocals on its 2015 "Riot" tour.

"Toward the Rising Sun" is the theme song of "Te Ata," the Chickasaw Nation-produced full-length movie based on the early career of Mary Thompson "Te Ata" Fisher, world-renowned actress, Native American storyteller and folklorist.

The song and the artist who sings it have been nominated by the Native American Music Awards (NAMMY). The song is up for "Single of the Year," and Miss Fair is nominated for "Artist of the Year." Internet voting has begun and supporters of the song may vote once per day.

Also, the Native American band, Injunuity, is up for "Record of the Year," for the band's new album, Mahli.

In order to vote, visit www.NAMALIVE.com, click "vote now" and chose "Toward the Rising Sun," Tabitha Fair and Injunuity.

The Chickasaw Nation is making the song available for purchase to the public using multiple venues. Major online music retailers iTunes, Amazon, Spotify, Google Play, Pandora and several others have the song in inventory.

Chickasaw songstress Tabitha Fair performing "Toward the Rising Sun." Fair has been nominated for "Artist of the Year" and the song has been nominated for "Single of the Year" by the Native American Music Awards.

"OUR BEST EFFORT"

Chickasaw Nation employees Jeff Carpenter, Brad Clonch, Philip Sullivan, Brian Harrison and Harley Lewis were tasked with writing the music and lyrics of "Toward the Rising Sun." Coincidentally, Carpenter, Clonch, Sullivan and Harrison are also members of the national award-winning Native quartet "Injunuity."

Mr. Carpenter has said the song is "our best effort by far. Everyone understood its importance. It is an assignment you relish and the team we put together all brought their 'A' game."

During research and study of the movie, Mr. Carpenter noticed a recurring element universal to "Te Ata" and the Chickasaw Nation.

"In the movie, Te Ata mentions the 'rising sun' several times in conversation or when she is telling a story," he said. "It struck me both Te Ata and the tribe always moved 'toward the rising sun.'"

Historians agree Chickasaws traveled great distances from west to east before finally settling in their ancestral homeland in what is now Mississippi. Additionally, rural Oklahoma-born Te Ata ventured east to New York City when she was a young, aspiring actress.

Lending powerful credibility to Mr. Carpenter's observations and research was Te Ata's name – it means "bearer of the morning."

ALL IN AGREEMENT

Mr. Carpenter presented his idea to the songwriting team, where it rang true with his collaborators. As an added bonus, he had already composed a fundamental chord structure for the song playing in his head.

Lyrically, "Toward the Rising Sun" took the group about eight hours to write in two exhaustive four-hour songwriting sessions.

A rudimentary scratch track was recorded and sent to Miss Fair. She would choose a key and begin rehearsing, all while traveling the nation aboard a tour bus with Rascal Flatts.

Mr. Clonch's finely-tuned music discipline created digital strings which "really added a professional and beautiful flow to the song," Mr. Carpenter said.

But there was a problem. At some point professional violinists, cellists and string performers would have to be hired to play on the final recording. In order for that to occur, the music would have to be written out.

That duty fell to Mr. Clonch. He sat down at a piano and played the string parts, scratching down notes. He later went back and tidied up the hand-scribed score.

A few days later, sheet music was handed to 21 Oklahoma string performers to put the finishing touches on "Toward the Rising Sun."

"Listening to and watching that orchestra play our composition … well, it choked us up," Mr. Carpenter said. "The emotional experience was overwhelming. I think it surprised us both. It is an intense feeling hearing an orchestra perform music you composed."

OVER-THE-TOP VOCALIST

Miss Fair's lead vocals and harmonies were recorded in one day following a whirlwind trip to Ada from Dallas on a night Rascal Flatts performed in the Texas metroplex.

"I remember thinking 'two days to get all this done,'" Mr. Carpenter said. "I should have put all my concerns aside because there isn't a more thorough professional than Tabitha Fair."

Miss Fair laid down harmony parts first and then recorded the lead vocal. In fact, she recorded eight versions of the lead.

"All of the recordings were magnificent," Mr. Carpenter said. "So, we enjoyed the luxury of choosing the best of about eight great takes."

For 30-plus years, Miss Fair has worked as a backup vocalist for some of the hottest acts in America, including Amy Grant, Faith Hill, Trisha Yearwood, Céline Dion, Elton John and others.

She is Chickasaw born and raised in Oklahoma, the daughter of a Methodist minister. Over the last few years, she has reconnected with her Native heritage. When asked to perform the "Te Ata" theme, Miss Fair jumped at the opportunity.

In a soulful, powerful performance of "Toward the Rising Sun," it is easy to see why the Chickasaw singer is in demand.

56th Annual Meeting and 28th Chickasaw Festival Schedule

September 23 - October 1

DAY/DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Friday, September 23	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Pontotoc Pursuit Packet Pickup	Chickasaw Foundation, 2020 Arlington, Suite 4, Ada, OK
	9:00 AM	Registration - Chickasaw History Challenge Bowl	CCC/Sulphur
	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Chickasaw History Challenge Bowl	CCC/Sulphur
	7:00 PM - 2:00 AM	Social stickball game/Stomp Dance	Kullihoma
Saturday,September 24	7:30 AM	Golf Tournament Registration	Tishomingo Golf Course
	8:00 AM - 8:40 AM	Pontotoc Pursuit Registration	Wintersmith Park/Ada
	8:00 AM	1 Mile Fun Walk	Refuge Road/Tishomingo
	8:00 AM	Cornstalk Shoot Registration	Kullihoma
	8:30 AM	5K Run	Refuge Road/Tishomingo
	8:30 AM	Kids Cornstalk Shoot	Kullihoma
	9:00 AM	Co-Ed Slow Pitch Softball Tournament	MSC / J.C. Sports Complex/Tishomingo
	9:00 AM	Golf Tournament Begins	Tishomingo Golf Course
	9:00 AM	Jr. Olympics Registration	THS Football Field/Tishomingo
	9:00 AM	Pontotoc Pursuit Ride Begins	Wintersmith Park/Ada
	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Stickball Tournament - Kids and Adults	CCC/Sulphur
	10:00 AM	Jr. Olympics Begins	THS Football Field/Tishomingo
	10:00 AM	Traditional Cornstalk Shoot Begins	Kullihoma
	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Chickasaw Bank Museum (Open)	Tishomingo
	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Chickasaw Capitol Building (Open)	Tishomingo
	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Chickasaw Council House Museum (Open)	Tishomingo
	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Chickasaw White House Tours	Emet
	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Chickasaw Cultural Center (Open)	Sulphur
	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Frybread Making Classes	CCC/Sulphur
	6:30 PM	Movie Night (Pearl)	CCC/Sulphur
	7:30 PM	Movie Night (Star Wars: The Force Awakens)	Capitol Grounds Lawn/Tishomingo
Sunday, September 25	12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Chickasaw Cultural Center (Open)	CCC/Sulphur
Monday, September 26	6:00 PM	Princess Pageant	Ada Cougar Activity Center
Tuesday, September 27	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Chickasaw Senior Olympics	MSC/J.C. Sports Complex/Tishomingo
Tuesday, September 27 - Thru - Friday, September 30	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Cultural School Tours	Capitol Grounds West Side/Tishomingo
	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Kids Activities Tent, inflatables,Petting Zoo	W. 8th Street (N. side of Capitol)/Tishomingo
	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Stickball Demonstrations,Dance Troupe & Cultural Demonstrations	Capitol Grounds West Side/Tishomingo
	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Storytelling/Living History Vignettes	N. Mickle and W. 9th/Tishomingo
	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Tours of Tishomingo Museums	Capitol Grounds/Tishomingo
	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Chickasaw Bank Museum (open)	Tishomingo
	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Chickasaw White House Tours	Emet
	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Chickasaw Cultural Center (Open)	Sulphur
Thursday, September 29	4:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Cultural Evening	CCC/Sulphur
	6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Arts & Culture Awards	CCC/Sulphur (Anoli' Theatre)
	7:30 PM	Reception	CCC/Sulphur
Friday, September 30	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Vendors: Arts & Crafts/Food	West 8th Street (North side of Capitol)/Tishomingo
	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Southeastern Art Show and Market	Capitol Grounds South Side/Tishomingo
	8:00 PM - Until Finished	Johnston County Riding Club Rodeo	MSC Rodeo Arena
Saturday, October 1	8:00 AM	Chickasaw Citizen Registration	MSC Student Center
	9:00 AM	Annual Meeting	MSC Fletcher Auditorium
	9:00 AM	Fast Pitch Softball Tournaments (Womens and Mens)	MSC / J.C. Sports Complex/Tishomingo
	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Chickasaw Bank Museum (Open)	Tishomingo
	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Chickasaw Capitol Building (Open)	Tishomingo
	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Chickasaw Council House Museum (Open)	Tishomingo
	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Vendors: Arts and Crafts/Food	West 8th Street (North side of Capitol)/Tishomingo
	11:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Health Fair	Fisher Street/East of Capitol/Tishomingo
	11:30 AM	Horseshoe Tournament Registration	Corner of West 7th St. and N.Fisher Ave./Tishomingo
	11:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Southeastern Art Show and Market	Capitol Grounds South Side/Tishomingo
	11:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Chickasaw Press Book Signing	Capitol Building 2nd floor/Tishomingo
	11:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Cultural Demonstrations	Capitol Grounds West Side/Tishomingo
	11:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Petting Zoo, Kids Inflatables, Make and Take Tents,	West 8th Street (North side of Capitol)/Tishomingo
	11:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Souvenir Sales/two locations	West 9th and Mickle / West 8th and Mickle/Tishomingo
	11:30 AM - 3:00 PM	Chickasaw Traditonal Meal	Fisher Street/East of Capitol/Tishomingo
	12:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Chickasaw White House Tours	Emet
	12:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Live Entertainment	Corner of North Mickle and West 8th Street/Tishomingo
	12:30 PM	Parade	Main Street Tishomingo
	1:00 PM	Parent/Child Fishing Tournament	North of Health Clinic/Tishomingo
	1:00 PM	Horseshoe Tournament Begins	Corner of West 7th St. and North Fisher Ave./Tishomingo
	1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Storytelling/Living History Vignettes	Corner of North Mickle and West 9th/Tishomingo
	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Cultural Classes - History and Culture	Capitol Grounds/Tishomingo
	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Chickasaw Cultural Center (open)	Sulphur
	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Stomp Dance Demonstrations	Capitol Grounds West Side/Tishomingo
	1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Stickball Demonstrations	Capitol Grounds West Side/Tishomingo
	2:00 PM - Until Finished	Band Day Extravaganza	Tishomingo High School
	6:30 PM	Movie Night	CCC/Sulphur
	8:00 PM - Until Finished	Johnston County Riding Club Rodeo	MSC Rodeo Arena/Tishomingo

CCC = Chickasaw Cultural Center
MSC = Murray State College
J.C. Sports Complex = Johnston County Sports Complex
THS = Tishomingo High School

Mom, daughter bond through hunting experience

Chickasaw Courtney Starns, of Ada, Okla., learned firsthand the benefits of embracing the outdoors, and it is a lesson she has passed on to her 7-year-old daughter Camden.

The mother-daughter duo venture into the wild every chance they get. For the last two years they have spent countless early mornings together on the hunt in Oklahoma, silently waiting, listening, seeing.

Ms. Starns said her daughter learned more any day in the woods than the best day sitting at home.

"I want my daughter to grow up appreciating the simple things in life and there is a lot you can learn when you spend time in the woods," Ms. Starns said. "As a Native American, our ancestors worked very hard to ensure that their traditions and values were passed down through generations, and is it up to us to pass those on to our children."

These traditions include discipline, patience, hard work, faith, focus, appreciation, family, environmental awareness, honesty, generosity and kind-heartedness. Ms. Starns sees hunting as one of the best ways to share these traits with her daughter.

To make a good deal better, she said their outings were also one of the best ways to bond and create incredible memories.

Pope and Young, a national bow hunting organization, recently turned a spotlight to mother and daughter Starns in P&Y Ethic magazine. Since fall 2015, the organization's magazine has used photographs of Ms. Starns and Camden to promote hunting for young women.

Coutney and Camden Starns display the reward for their day out hunting: a nice, big turkey. The two have spent countless hours together in the Oklahoma wilderness.

P&Y Ethic and Australian Outdoor Adventures also published an article by Ms. Starns, "Why we hunt." Her article explained what Camden had learned through their hunting adventures. The article can be found in P&Y Ethic or online at http://www.australianoutdooradventures.com.au/hunting/courtney-starns-why-we-hunt/

The Starns were also featured in an advertisement campaign for Mossy Oak with a video titled "Prayer." It can be viewed online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwR7GicW1SY

Ms. Starns keeps a blog where she shares her experiences, thoughts and insight regarding her treks out into the wilderness with daughter Camden. It can be found at http://courtneystarns.com.

Lanphere earns Master's from University of Bristol

Connor Lanphere recently earned a master's degree from the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom. He thanked the higher education program and Chickasaw community for helping him achieve his goals throughout his work on his undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Mr. Lanphere used a number of Chickasaw Nation services to aid him in reaching his education goals. He benefited from general scholarships, textbooks grants, clothing grants, degree completion incentive, classification change incentive, laptop grant, higher education grant and graduation stole.

He plans to begin work on a Ph.D at University College London while working as a chemist.

CONNOR LANPHERE

Mr. Lanphere said the Higher Education Department staff was very accommodating, even given the challenge of the different university system in the U.K.

"Overall I would say it has been a very positive experience and I am looking forward to the next chapter," Mr. Lanphere said.

For more information about Chickasaw Nation Higher Education services, visit www.chickasaw.net.